The American Bee Journal

DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO BEE CULTURE.

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Editor's Table.

☞ Rubber companies use a large amount of beeswax, in giving polish to hard rubber.

☞ An error was made on page 367 of last issue. Mr. Betsinger claims to be the first inventor of a sectional *box* —not hive.

☞ On Nov. 16th, Messrs. Thurber sold 100 barrels of honey and sent it to Bremen, containing 4,168 gallons net. It was sold for $4,042.96.

☞ Friend Chapman reports that he finds an increased demand for extractors. As soon as the "scare" about *impure* honey is over, extractors will be in lively demand, and at much better prices.

☞ We are assured that not 1,000 lbs. of strictly *white* comb honey can be found in the whole city of New York. We must next year get more light comb honey, and try to supply the demand now created.

☞ Friend Sonne, of Sigel, Ill., has made a small model of his hive, and it is added to our museum for the inspection of visitors. We have also added to our museum the crate used by Capt. Hetherington; the boxes used by G. M. Doolittle, and the Centennial hive made by Dr. Worrall.

☞ We have received a small box of teasel seed and some teasel heads as they are cut for the market, from friend G. M. Doolittle. The plant grows about 4 feet high, and has from 6 to 12 heads on each plant. It takes 2 years to perfect the plant. Friend Doolittle remarks that there are none nearer to his apiary than 1½ miles.

Friend W. J. Andrews has been re-elected to the office of Alderman at Columbia, Tenn., by a handsome vote.

☞ In selecting your list of Periodicals for next year, look over our clubbing list. It will save money to send us your orders for the whole.

☞ Friend Muth, of Cincinnati, says "Extracted honey is getting into better demand every day. We have never sold as much before, as we have this season."

☞ A woodpecker bored a hole in the spire of a church in Jackson, Miss., last spring, and made its nest within it. In the summer, however, a swarm of bees flew to the spire, drove out the woodpecker, and have since filled the interior with honey. And now man, the sovereign dispoiler, has discovered the hoard, and resolved to exhibit the spire, with its novel contents, at the State Fair.

☞ We have printed the "Address to the Public," adopted by the late National Convention, and sent a copy of it to local papers all over the country, asking them to insert it. If our friends will call on the editors of their local papers, and request its publication they will be helping the cause along. If the copy has been mislaid or lost, send us a postal card, and we will send another.

☞ Centennial awards are confusing. Several of our correspondents wish to know how it is that two awards of diplomas were given to extractors, etc. This is the *secret* of the whole affair: Each article on exhibition received a diploma or medal of some kind. There were no second awards—all were first awards. No one receiving any special honor over a competitor. This is the milk of the cocoa-nut.

Bibulous Bees.

The Los Angeles (Cal.) *Herald* has the following remarks concerning the peculiar habits of bees in that State. It says:

"An immense honey production has grown up in Los Angeles and San Diego counties in the past 2 or 3 years. Every canon and coigne of vantage, in both counties, has its bee farm. Col. Chalmers Scott informs us that the bees in San Diego county have developed a great fondness for orange blossoms and grapes. It was the fashion, formerly, to make 4,000 or 5,000 gallons of wine at Guajome every year, but since the bees have made their appearance the vineyard at that point has failed to yield. The grape forms as of yore, but the juice is sucked out by the bees, thus anticipating the wine press. They dip into the orange blossoms also, and the consequence is that the fruit is dwarfed. A great portion of the feed of bees in Southern California is the blossom of the white sage. It makes a white and agreeable honey. But when sheep have once pastured among the white sage the bees will have nothing more to do with it.

"It is quite likely that, at the next session of the Legislature, there will be an effort both upon the part of the bee men and the sheep men to obtain some legislation from their respective standpoints."

If some of the bee kings of California, preferably those of Los Angeles and San Diego counties, will state the facts, from their observation, they will confer a favor upon our Eastern readers. The truth is what we want.

PRIZES.—Dr. Ehrick Parmly, of New York, wishes us to announce the following prizes (money or medal of equal value) viz.:

$25 for the best essay on Fertilization in Confinement.

$10 for the best essay on Rearing Queens and Re-Queening an Apiary.

These essays are to be read at the next meeting of the National Bee-Keepers' Association to be held in New York on Oct. 8, 1878. Judges to be appointed by the Association. EHRICK PARMLY.

☞ The Little Rock *Daily Gazette* contains a report of the Arkansas State Fair, and from it we clip the following, concerning honey raising in that State:

"Dr. Hipolite, of DeVall's Bluff, exhibited a very fine article of honey. The Doctor is a bee-raiser of experience, and he has proved to a demonstration that as good honey can be raised in Arkansas as anywhere else."

Friend Hipolite obtained the highest premium for extracted and comb honey. The latter was in 2-lb. section boxes. One of the judges (a practical apiarist) remarked that it was "the finest honey he had ever seen anywhere." When we were down there two years ago, we thought Arkansas a good State for honey raising, and it seems we were not mistaken.

☞ The Sedalia (Mo.) *Democrat* says:

"Mrs. Henry Smith, living 8 miles from this city, went into the yard accompanied by her little daughter, a child 7 years of age, to get some honey. The box containing the hive is an ordinary patent arrangement with drawers. In slipping one of them out Mrs. Smith was stung by a bee. The shock and pain caused her to jerk her hand back quickly, and her elbow striking another box, knocking it over, causing it to burst open. In an instant she and the child were literally covered with a swarm of insects, which stung them on the face, neck and arms, and indeed nearly all over the body. Frightened and crazed with pain, they started to run, but they were blinded by the bees, and it was ten minutes before they succeeded in getting into the house and free from the swarm. In less than an hour their faces were swollen out of all recognition, and Mrs. Smith had become insensible from her injuries."

Had Mrs. Smith had a good smoker she would not have suffered thus. No one should go among bees without the means of subduing them close at hand, to be used in case of necessity.

REPORT OF THE CONVENTION.—It is gratifying to know that our getting out a "Special Edition" of the JOURNAL containing the official report of the proceedings of the National Convention, is so generally appreciated. We have had scores of complimentary letters approving our prompt publication of such a full report.

In 1872, $50 were voted to the Secretary for the labor of getting up a report of the National Convention. In the present instance we have produced it, printed in a special edition, without a cent's expense to the Association.

As we offer to send 10 copies for $1.00 (see page 418 of this issue) to those who will distribute them, we hope those who can afford it will take this opportunity of spreading the information it contains to all the small bee-keepers in their vicinity. Such often injure markets through not being posted. In this way apiarists will benefit themselves as well as aid the cause in general.

☞ The *British Bee Journal* in its issue for Nov. states that some of the "spurious Yankee stuff" called "genuine American honey" had been imported into Britain. It says it was "found in fancy bottles, a slice of comb being in the centre" surrounded with a mixture containing 57 per cent. of glucose to 43 per cent. of honey. A shopkeeper in Glasgow, Scotland, on Sept. 27th, was arrested and fined £2 for offering it for sale. Englishmen compare to great advantage with Americans in this particular, that *there* food inspectors are continually watching everything sold as genuine, and promptly discover adulteration, getting it suitably punished. Bro. Abbott is quite right, in remarking: "This is almost as rascally a business as was that in which wooden nutmegs figured some years since." Such "vile stuff" was for years the *bane* of bee-keepers in this country, till driven from our markets by public contempt—consumers demanding "honey in the comb," in boxes or sectional frames, as a safeguard against villainous adulteration.

In reference to that "Royal Funeral" item in the October number, W. E. Hamilton remarks:

"Mr. H's fancy has transformed a common occurrence into a funeral scene. Let any one kill a queen and leave her body within a few yards of the hive, and in a few hours they may see it surrounded by workers, clinging to it tenaciously."

True, workers do sometimes exhibit considerable devotion to their queen—but that a "funeral procession" is "formed at the hive" and that it "moves in a solid line," etc., is too much exaggerated to be truthful.

If a queen be lost, the bees will go in search for her, and when discovered, the finders will call the rest of the colony. If they hear it, they will go in a body, as that is their usual way of moving. If she is dead, they will quickly return to the hive. From this circumstance, Mr. H. evidently manufactured his "royal funeral" story.

☞ Thurber & Co. are putting up candied honey in jars for export. Each jar is labeled with the following:—"$1,000 in gold coin will be paid if the honey contained in this jar is found to be impure, or in any manner adulterated." That has the "ring" of true metal about it! Adulteration should be everywhere frowned down.

Many new and valuable features may be expected in our volume for 1878.

☞ Ch. Dadant sold about 5,000 lbs. of honey in St. Louis, on the 20th ult.

Michigan B. K. Association.

The eleventh annual session of this Association will be held in the city of Adrian, Mich., on Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 19 and 20, 1877. The first session will convene at 2 o'clock p. m. on Wednesday. Notices of the place of meeting will be put up in the post-office, so that those from abroad can easily ascertain the location of the convention.

Adrian is located on the main line of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern R. R.—one of the best equipped of the great trunk lines—and is therefore easily accessible from all parts of the country.

We regret our inability to give the full programme at this date; but can assure all who are interested in improved bee-culture, that it will be one of the most attractive ever issued by our Association. We may mention that several new and very valuable implements, designed to increase the production of honey and enhance its market value and ready sale, will, for the first time, be on exhibition. They are the result of patient labor and careful experiment of two of our most practical and experienced members, and are, as we think, destined to revolutionize the bee-culture of to-day.

The editor of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL is expected to be present and take part in the discussions. Come one, come all, and let us make this session a splendid success. HERBERT A. BURCH, *Sec.*
A. J. COOK, *Pres.*

☞ Friend Abbott, editor of the *British Bee Journal*, states that C. O. Perrine "did not visit Egypt or Cyprus Island" on his late tour, and that he bought his *varieties* of queens of Sartori, of Milan, Italy. A letter from Mr. P. while in London, stated that he intended to go to both of these places and procure several varities of queens to bring home; hence our mention of it in the A. B. J. for October. We are sorry this original intention was not carried out, and surmise that some important business at home *must* have disarranged his original plans—for on no other supposition *can* we explain his not calling on Bro. Abbott as agreed on his return to England, as we announced. His "sudden" departure for home is the more perplexing from the fact that Bro. Abbott had arranged for a festive "at home," at Fairlawn, and invited some fifty prominent apiarists, on which occasion Mr. P. was to have been the honored guest. Being English ourself, and understanding "the manners and customs" of both countries, we fully appreciate the situation, and exceedingly regret the disappointment. More than one-half of the 200 Queens died *en route*.

☞ It is suggested that we open a department in the JOURNAL for "Small Fruit Culture," as that is a profitable pasturage for bees. What do our readers say? Is it advisable?

Death of the Baron Von Berlepsch.

A great man has passed away! Our readers will learn with regret that the Baron Von Berlepsch, the great German apiarist, is no more! His memory will be embalmed in the hearts of thousands, all over the world, as one of the kindest, as well as one of the greatest men of the present age.

BARON VON BERLEPSCH.

The following letter from Austria tells its own sad story:

PRAGUE, Austria, Oct. 16, 1877.

THOMAS G. NEWMAN: *Dear Sir*,—I am bearer of afflicting intelligence. Our great bee-master, the Baron Von Berlepsch died at Munich, on Sept. 17, 1877, aged 62 years, after a serious illness of 9 years. If Dzierzon is the inventor of movable combs, Berlepsch is the true founder. His name will be honored as long as bee-keeping exists as a science, and wherever bees are cultivated. While the deceased had no enemies, his friends extended throughout the world.

In my next I will give you a report of the German Apiarian Congress.

Very truly yours,

R. MAYERHOFFER,
Editor of "Bienenvater aus Bohmen."

The following is the verbatim "official notice" of his death:

"Lima Baronne de Berlepsch gives afflicting notice, in her name and in the name of her family, that her beloved husband, Sittig Eugen August Hinrich Gottlob Fredherr Von Berlepsch, honorary member and master of the German Hochsloft of Frankfort-on-the-Main, honorary member of the Association for the increasing of apiculture in Bohemia, and various other bee-keepers' associations in different countries, 62 years of age, after a maiming of 9 years, to-day at 3:30 a.m.—deceased. Munich, Sep. 17, 1877."

Our friend, C. P. Dadant, furnishes the following sketch of his life and labors in connection with his favorite study—the bee:

He was born on the 28th of June, 1815, in Langensalzo, Thuringen. In his biography, published in "The Bee and its Culture with Movable-Frames," he narrates that in his childhood he was fond of bees, and often ran from home to the apiary of a neighbor of his father. On his 7th birthday, his father presented him with a colony of bees. Since that time he has owned bees; and while studying law at the University of Doring (who was an enthusiast on bees) Mr. Berlepsch was permitted to bring with him a few hives, which were placed in the apiary of his professor.

In all the cities where the young Baron was sent to complete his studies, he took with him some colonies of bees. When his father died in 1841, he was the owner of 100 colonies, an had read a great many books on bee-culture and had conversed with some of the best bee-keepers of his country.

When the German bee paper was published he studied the theory of Dzierzon, and 6 or 7 years after, in 1853, he began to write articles on bee-culture. In these first writings he was opposed to Dzierzon's theory of the parthenogenesis of the queen. But Von Siebold having visited his apiary to experiment on the eggs of workers and of drones, Berlepsch was soon convinced and became an enthusiastic supporter of the Dzierzon theory, which is no longer doubted by scientific men.

At the time when the master of American bee-keepers, Langstroth, invented the practical movable-frame hive, Berlepsch, on the other side of the Atlantic, was making a similar discovery. But his side-opening hive (which is yet the most used in Germany, and which had the honor of being selected as the standard by the Italian bee-keepers), is not as easily managed as that of Langstroth.

In 1860, he published the first edition of his work, which, although being one of the best books published in Germany, was burdened with controveries with Dzierzon; as is acknowledged in the second edition, published in 1868. Berlepsch had not the eminent acuteness and the surprising talent of Dzierzon, but his wealth permitted him to procure most of the books on bee-culture published in Germany; his leisure gave him time to read and compile from them what he thought worthy of note, and to have intricate and personal experiments made. It is therefore no wonder that it is one of the best and most complete works on bee-culture ever published. It would be a benefit even to America, if some of our German-born bee-keepers would take the trouble to translate it; it has been translated in Italy.

Many of Berlepsch's teachings would probably be no longer up to the times; he has held many incorrect theories, but his services as a diffuser of knowledge in theoretical bee-culture have been sufficient for his disciples to rank him as second only to Dzierzon.

In 1867, he suffered from an attack of apoplexy which rendered him an invalid for the rest of his life; and the second edition of his work is the result of the valuable help of his wife, the Baroness Lina Von Berlepsch.

In this issue will be found a Title Page and copious Indexes for the Volume for 1877, which is now ended. By cutting the thread these may be easily taken out and placed in front of the January number, and if not already placed in Emerson's Binder, it is ready for binding. These Indexes show about 600 correspondents, and from 400 to 500 subjects for the year 1877.

☞ When an old subscriber wishes to *present* a copy of the BEE JOURNAL to a friend for 1878, he may remit $3.00 for the two, if sent during December.

Foreign Notes,

GLEANED BY FRANK BENTON.

ARABIS ALPINA.—A correspondent of *Der Elsaessische Bienen-Zuechter* and the editor of the same periodical, speak in high terms of a plant bearing the scientific name mentioned above, and known to the French as *Arabette des Alpes*, and among Germans as *Alpengaensekraut*. Herr Deunler says "it is covered with bees from morning till evening, and appears to be an inexhaustable source of sweet nectar. It yields pollen also. The snow-white blossoms appear (in Lothringen) early in March and continue through April, furnishing, in connection with the whitish-green leaves a fine effect. It is recommended for borders.

THE following close translation of a letter written by Herrn G. Von Gerichten, of Illkirch, may furnish a lesson in patience and care for some of our careless Yankee bee-owners:

"HOW I SAVED MY BEES FROM DEATH BY CHILLING.—On the 17th of April the sun appeared very beautiful in the morning, the bees buzzed joyously and carried home rich loads of honey and pollen from the fruit trees, resplendent in their beautiful blossoms. Toward mid-day a cold wind blew, impeding the homeward flight of many bees, and in a few minutes the vicinity of my bee stand lay strewn with torpid workers. As is the case with all my bee-keeping colleagues, I cannot knowingly permit a single bee to perish. I put my chilled pets in a glass jar and placed it near the warm stove, and soon had the pleasure of seeing the little fellows, heretofore motionless, move about in a sprightly manner. I gave them all to one of my weakest stocks, which accepted them readily. Thus was I able to save the lives of many bees, and I herewith call the attention of all bee-keepers to the manner."

THE success of the apiculturist depends upon having his hives populous. This is a principle that one ought never to overlook. —*Conlardi.*

A STRASBURG journal notices the appearance in that locality of *Sphinx atropos*, or, as the Germans call it, "Deathshead-swarmer." The same periodical, under the title of "A Honey Thief," gave last year the following notice of this insect:

"At first sight the reader will recognize in the illustration which we give, a representation of the large moth commonly known under the name 'Deathshead,' and which entomologists call *Acherontia atropos*, or *Sphinx atropos*. In the year 1873 we called attention in the *Landwirthschaftlichen Zeitschrift fuer Elsass-Lothringen*, to the nightly occupation of this moth, yet we cannot refrain from again warning all bee-keepers against this enemy; and, as they are very numerous this fall, we advise all to contract as much as possible the entrances to their hives. During the evening hours the Deathshead slips into bee-hives, presses its way, with stormy strength and powerful strokes of the wings, to the honey-cells, sips its fill of honey, and departs in the same manner. The body of the moth is plump and covered with smoothly-laid hair so that the bees are unable to fasten upon it, besides its skin or covering is too hard for the sting of the bee to penetrate; thus, the bold intruder nearly always escapes from the robbed hive with a whole hide and a full stomach. Sometimes, however, the bees succeed in smothering him by crowding upon him in a mass. The remains of such smothered moths are often found in the hives when the spring revision takes place. The Deathshead consumes about a teaspoonful of honey for its evening meal. Be therefore on guard, dear bee-keepers; the foe is there!"

A NEW edition of "*Brehm's Thierleben*" (Brehm's Animal Life) has been issued by the Bibliographic Institute of Leipsic. *Der Elsaessische Bienen-Zuechter* for September devotes over two pages to a notice of the work, which it introduces by saying:—"It is to-day our pleasant duty to call the attention of the bee-culturists of Alsace to this magnificent work, of which German literature may well be proud," and speaks further of it as "the greatest among the zoological works of all nations and all lands, of all times and all languages." It comprises ten volumes.

ONE may be a possessor of bees and still not an apiculturist; and he does not become so, in the real sense of the word, until he puts in practice, in a logical manner, all the means that modern science has shown us.—*Ed. Thiery-Mieg.*

SOCIETE *d'Apiculture de la Marne* is the name of a bee-keepers' association lately formed in Champaigne, just east of the Isle of France, in the latter province Paris is situated.

THE Alsatian bee-culturists propose to publish their journal of apiculture, *Der Elsaessische Bienen-Zuechter*, in the French language as well as in German, provided 500 members will subscribe for the French edition and pay annually 3 francs each. At present, articles written in either language are inserted in the same number.

L'APICULTEUR says that "some California honey has arrived at Liverpool, and is held at 115 francs per 100 kilogrammes." That is about 10c. per lb.

THE HARVEST.—The Alsatian journal, *Der Bienen-Zuchter*, says: "The year 1877 cannot be numbered among the good bee-years."

The old bee-culturist, Herr Breitel, writes from St. Pilt, in Upper Alsace: "This is a good honey year with us."

In the Muenster Valley the yield was excellent during June and July.

From the Upper Loire comes the report that the honey harvest was a good one, and the number of swarms large.

A bee-keeper residing in the region lying between the Loire and Cher rivers, says:—"Swarming has been very great here—the number of swarms reaching 300 per cent.—but the stocks are weak, and if the close of summer does not find them improved, not one of them will see the opening of next spring."

From the provinces on the Somme, Oise, Aisne and Marne rivers, as well as the

Lower Seine, the general reports are that the season has been a very ordinary one—both for honey and increase of stocks.

A letter from a bee-culturist in Savoy, in Eastern France, to *L'Apiculteur*, of Paris, states that the harvests have been mediocre.

"Swarming in our locality has been very good. Nearly all hives have given two natural swarms."—*Rousseau, St. Chislain, Belgium.*

In England, comb honey is not abundant.

WINTERING IN PITS AND CELLARS.—The Vice-President of a Bohemian apiarian society, Pastor Joseph Ehl-Dittersbach introduced, at a convention of bee-keepers, the following question:

"*Has a trial of wintering bees in cellars or earth pits been made; if so, with what result; and is this method to be universally recommended?*"

"This question is one of the most important relating to bee-culture, since the prosperity of the colony depends upon the successful wintering of the bees. Only when we are able to determine upon a method of wintering bees successfully can we lay claim to the title, 'Master of bee-culture.' Innumerable experiments in this direction have been made, and yet one hears, on the opening of nearly every spring, loud complaints that the bees have wintered poorly, since they are troubled with dysentery or are found dead. For example, one of my friends had this spring but 5 living colonies out of 25 put in winter quarters. It is advisable, before discussing this question, to call to mind the points essential to success in wintering.

"As is well-known the honey-bee is a native of the Orient, where, with some slight exceptions, it is able to fly out during the whole year. With us, on the contrary, it is obliged on acconnt of the severe climate to remain in its domicile from 3 to 6 months. In order to make this unnatural condition as light as possible for the bee the following-named points must be observed. It is to be understood, of course, that the stocks to be wintered are populous, healthy, and furnished with a queen not over three years old. The colony must be provided:

"1st. With sufficient food — pollen, as well as about 24 lbs., or about 12 kilogrammes of honey.

"2d. With water to quench thirst and to thin the candied honey.

"3d. With fresh air—so as not to be smothered.

"4th. With protection from severe cold.

"5th. They must remain dry; for too much water, as well as too little, is injurious; too much water produces mold or mustiness in the hive.

"6th. They must remain quiet. When bees are disturbed during cold weather their exertions cause them to become warm, they leave the cluster and are chilled.

"7th. They must be safe from thieves.

"It will not be difficult for us to give a correct decision in reference to the question if we take into careful consideration the above mentioned points."

The discussion which followed brought forth from numerous members the statement that they were highly pleased with the results of their experiments in wintering in earth-pits, while others preferred to place colonies in cellars and watch the temperature. President Budiegizki said that even in severe seasons he had not failed to winter his bees well in straw hives on their summer stands. It was his opinion that before the practice of wintering in pits or cellars could be recommended for universal adoption it would be necessary to collect the facts which a wider experience in this direction would give.

Translated from "Bienenfreund" by F. Benton.

The large Bee, Apis dorsata, of Java.

BY EDWARD CORI, BRUEX, BOHEMIA.

According to the statements of a post officer and a high government official of the Dutch island of Java, with whom I became acquainted in Carlsbad, the surface of this island from the coast some distance inland is, for the greater part, low, level, and covered with tropical productions. The pine-apple, rice, sugar-cane, indigo, vanilla, and other useful plants of hot climates are cultivated in the fields as potatoes with us, the cocoanut palm as with us the fruit tree. In the interior the earth rises into numerous broad terraces, one after another, higher and higher, until, finally, as mountains it becomes very elevated. The higher these terraces lie above the sea level, the milder, and, in comparison with the tropical shores of the island, the more temperate is their climate. It is upon these terraces that the world-renowned Java coffee flourishes. Beyond the coffee-tree region the primeval forest begins, and stretches away to the inner high mountains of the great island. The climate of this forest region is the most favorable one can imagine for plant and animal life; the soil is exceedingly fertile, besides there is much flowing water, and the dews are very heavy. Numerous brooks whose waters are crystal clear, cool, and good-tasting, flow down from the mountains.

Both the officers mentioned could not extol too highly the truly paradise-like beauty and splendor of this terrace region of the island. Everything which nature produces here is larger and more beautiful than elsewhere—is even gorgeous and magnificent. The flora is particularly rich and various, and the blossoms are exceedingly odorous. The animal life is even as rich as interesting; here is the home of the common, the silver, and the golden pheasant, also of the peacock; all of these are wild on the island, and objects of the hunt. The insect life of the island is especially developed, since all the conditions thereto are united in the most favorable manner; butterflies, moths, beetles, and all other insects are distinguished for their manifold colors and beauty, and particularly on account of their striking size.

Good Dame Nature has also produced in this island region, which is so wonderfully favorable to insect life, a peculiar race of bees, the *Apis dorsata*, which could properly be named "the Great Bee of the Island of Java," for it is, as far as is now known, *the largest bee in the world*. The first two segments of its abdomem are dark orange-yellow in color, the rest of them deep black and very shining; the hairy covering somewhat white, very thick on the thorax, and particularly broad upon the abdomenal rings.

This bee is nearly twice as large as our native black bee. A worker bee of this *Apis dorsata* preserved in a vial of alcohol appeared thus to me. The post-officer herein mentioned, visited me after his cure at Carlsbad, and I opened for him a hive in my apiary, showing him the queen on the removed comb, whereupon he assured me that he had found, seeking honey from the flowers, worker bees of the species *dorsata* fully as large as the queen I exhibited to him. Both of the officers told me they had heard from the natives that this bee lives in hollow trees, and is not a wanderer.

Unfortunately, the *Apis dorsata* is not bred or kept by the Javanese; neither is it, in its wild condition, hunted. The Javanese is in too great a degree a genuine Malay—is too simple to raise bees even in the most primitive manner. His hut he builds by erecting four unhewn poles, forming the walls of plaited branches covered with the broad leaves of tropical plants, and adding a roof of palm leaves; some rice, dried fish, and a little cocoanut oil constitute his food, sufficient of which for himself and family he can obtain for a few Dutch kreuzers.

Since the native wears only a kind of cotton shirt on his body, he is not protected from the stings of insects. He fears particularly that of the *Apis dorsata*, because it is very painful and produces large swellings which, with all the attendant inconveniences, last for days. This may be understood by considering that the sting of this bee is likely twice as long and stout, and the poison sac twice as large as those of our native black bee. Since the effect of the sting of the common bee on persons that are not accustomed to the poison of the bee is so great, what must be at first that of the *Apis dorsata?* With the warm climate and peculiarly luxuriant flora of the island of Java the poison of this bee may be of a stronger nature. We well know that during a rich honey harvest in the heat of summer, the poison of the bee is more intense with us than it is in the spring or autumn.

The Javanese fears not only the sting of the *Apis dorsata*, but also its disposition to follow its disturber. These bees angrily pursue in great numbers and to great distances the person who disturbs them in their habitation; and in such cases running back and forth or hiding in thick bushes helps little, for the insects, with certain flight are close upon their heels.

An additional difficulty in the way of obtaining the honey collected by these wild bees rests in the fact that they are accustomed to locate themselves very high—in the hollows of the old giant trees of the primitive Javanese forests.

As a result of all this the Javanese avoid these bees and in no manner attempt their capture. This race of bees receives no attention from the Hollanders who live on the island. They are absorbed in mercantile pursuits, and find in Java numerous other products so valuable and remunerative as to be equaled by few other countries.

Yet this *Apis dorsata* is, at all events, of great worth as a honey gatherer, and possesses for bee-culture in Europe a special, but not high enough valued, worth.

In all portions of our continent there are numerous plants whose blossoming time is long, and that yield honey abundantly, but which have such deep nectaries that our bee, with its short proboscis, cannot reach their sweet contents. Think of a single one of our numerous plants—of our red clover, which blossoms so long a time! What large surfaces in every country, in the plains, as well as mountains, in every village green this plant covers!! What enormous, inestimable treasures of honey our bees must leave uncollected in its blossoms because their proboscides are too short to reach its nectaries!!! Our bee is only able to secure the contents of the small blossom tubes of remaining stunted heads of red clover; the luxuaiant blossoms are of no use to her though they produce the most honey. What a loss this is for our little pets we can judge from the quantity and quality of the honey which they obtain from the smaller blossoms of the white clover, which, unfortunately, is too little cultivated. But the Javanese bee, *Apis dorsata*, would be able to gather stores from our red clover fields, so common everywhere, because she has a proboscis nearly twice as long as a common bee's.

From all this is to be seen what great value the race *Apis dorsata* would possess in Europe—that its importation to Europe would be, not only for bee-culture in itself, but also, in consequence of the greatly increased production of honey, for national economy, a real event.

The importation to Europe of *Apis dorsata* I regard as practicable, and all the attendant difficulties as surmountable, but only in case a practical European bee-culturist, with this object in view, goes to the island of Java and brings the colonies to Europe under his personal care.

Southern Notes,

GLEANED BY

W. J. ANDREWS, - COLUMBIA, TENN.

Bee Items Gleaned on our Trip.

A few days since we took a trip to Shelbyville, and Fayetteville, and we will now give a few bee items gleaned *en route.*

At Fayetteville we met for the first time friend Montgomery, who is well known to readers of the bee papers. We regretted very much not being able to visit the apiary of friend Montgomery, but time would not permit. We, however, had a long, social chat with him. He informed us that he had got rid of Gillespie, but that he was out about $85 in the way of lawyers' fees and court costs. Friend Montgomery is a very jolly, good-natured fellow, and in size and appearance, very much like friend Henry Alley, of Massachussets.

At Fayetteville, we also met Mr. Levi Elslich and Dr. W. C. Diemer, both beemen. We also learned that friend McFatridge was in town, but did not meet him.

On our return to Shelbyville we noticed quite a number of apiaries on the road, but did not stop to make the acquaintance of any one but Mr. J. C. Akin, at Shelbyville. We went through Mr. Akin's apiary. His hives are mostly Langstroth, but he has a few of Gillespie's—the first we ever saw. Mr. Akin has a very ingenious mode of locking his hives, his own invention, which prevents any pilfering of boxes containing honey. It is very simple and does not cost over a cent.

W. J. A.

For the American Bee Journal.

Wayside Pencilings.

We have been to the National Bee-Keepers' Convention, and at greater expense perhaps than any one else, but we do not regret it. There were a goodly number in attendance, but we do not believe that there is one who regrets it—for it was a grand success and much good was accomplished.

On our way we were compelled by a break of connections to spend several hours in Cincinnati, which we did in a very pleasant way with friend Muth.

Of the proceedings of the Convention we will not speak, as you have published them in full and they speak for themselves, but there is one matter in connection therewith that we will mention for the satisfaction of those who were present. It was generally remarked and much surprise expressed at the absence of friend J. S. Coe, who was seen only a few hours before the meeting, and who had promised to be on hand. The day after the Society adjourned, we called on friend Coe, who explained his absence by informing us that soon after we parted from him he was taken violently ill and was confined to his bed from Tuesday noon until Friday morning, and expressed regret at not being able to be present.

We were appointed a committee to wait on the Post Master General, regarding the shipment of bees by mail. We called on the gentleman, and exhibited to him the package of bees done up in the usual mailing style by friend Alley, and told him that it was utterly impossible for them to get out, or for mail matter to become soiled, or for any one to be injured by them. His reply was that all did not do them up so well—that if they had, there would have been no trouble about the matter; that some did them up in a very slovenly manner; that mail matter had been soiled and the bees had gotten out of the cages. Our conversation lasted several minutes. We made an appointment to meet him again in the evening at his hotel. We called but he was not in; should have called again had we not been feeling unwell. In what conversation we did have with him, however, we have no expectation of procuring a revocation of the order forbidding their being sent in the mail.

We would suggest that queen raisers and bee-men generally, circulate petitions, directed to their Members of Congress, requesting them to call on the Postmaster General and get it revoked. By this means it may be accomplished. We would add that the Postmaster General received us very cordially and showed us every courtesy possible.

From Washington we went to Chattanooga, where we met friend S. C. Dodge,—a real, live, progressive bee-man. He obtained a hack, into which we seated ourselves, and were soon pulling up the steep sides of Look-Out Mountain. Our visit to the Mountain was made doubly interesting by being so fortunate as having such a guide as friend Dodge, who knows every crook and crevise of it; also being quite a botanist, he pointed out the mountain flora which is peculiar to the mountain alone. Returning from the mountain, we partook of a sumptuous dinner with friend Dodge and his estimable lady.

After dining we took a stroll through friend Dodge's apiary, and then around the suburbs of the city. We spent a most delightful day, and shall ever remember it as one of the most pleasant of our life. We left for home on the evening train, arriving at 10 o'clock the following morning, where we found a large lot of correspondence awaiting our return. W. J. A.

Look-out Apiary.

FRIEND ANDREWS: I began the season with one weak colony in a closed-end frame Quinby hive, which I have increased to three. Not having any more hives of that pattern, I had to stop at that point. Later in the season, I procured five other colonies, in different kinds of frames. These I transferred into Gallup frames. One of the colonies soon became queenless, and I used it to fill up the other hives, making four strong colonies consisting of 12 frames each. These four colonies I have increased to 26, making 6½ of each one, besides several nuclei. I used the extractor freely while stores were coming in. I sold enough honey to pay for what foundation I needed, and returned the rest to the bees as they have needed it, and they appear to be in good condition to winter well, averaging nine full frames each. The only expense that I have been to is for hives.

It would be difficult for me to detail to you the many trials that I have labored under "to get the hang of it," but I now feel pleased with the season's work, it being my first in practical apiculture. And right here, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the several apiarists who so kindly and generously assisted me with their counsel. As a class, I have found them to be generous and unselfish, to a remarkable degree. I had a great deal to learn, but I feel assured that with the experience I have acquired this season in the nse of foundation and queen-rearing, that, in any good season, I could increase from one to ten.

I regard artificial comb foundation as invaluable, and the discovery of which should immortalize the inventor.

There is yet another discovery to be made, which will rank with any other in apiculture; that is, an artificial food for bees cheaper than either sugar or honey, to be used by them for brood-rearing without pollen, also for wintering. I regard the day as not far distant. Who will be the first to cry out Eureka! and generously give it to the world, free to all?

The season here began very nicely; plenty of fruit-tree blossoms, then came white clover and honey-dew, then a cessation on about July 1st. The only dependence for forage then was the mint family (*Labiatæ*). This just furnished enough to keep up a very moderate brood-rearing. About Sept. 15th, swartweed, golden-rod and astors began to open their flowers, and the fall harvest began in earnest. During the last week the busy workers have filled every cell with precious sweets, and at night their tiny wings keep up a loud and joyous hum, ventilating their hives, and concentrating the nectar—fitting it for their winter food—while the air is redolent with the perfume of the apiary. S. C. DODGE.

Chattenooga, Tenn., Oct. 4, 1877.

Correspondence.

For the American Bee Journal.

Chips From Sweet Home.

I dislike humbugs in any form, and more especially to swindle bee-keepers; not only out of their $5, but the bother and vexation of breeding from an impure queen. Hardin Haines exhibited a one-comb nucleus which he said contained a Cyprian queen and Italian workers, except about one out of 20 to 40 which were Cyprian workers—these he could point out, but to all observers they were just like the balance of Italians, and as there were several hybrids there were no drones.

He told me finally that he could not show me any difference in markings, but that the Cyprians gathered more honey. He offered to send me a queen, agreeing that if she was not better than any queen I had, she should cost me nothing. I also told him if she was better I would give him double his price. If I receive her I will report in the JOURNAL exactly what she proves to be. Why do not some of his visitors report favorable of his Cyprians? I saw several bee-keepers who are acquainted with him, and they pronounce him and his Cyprians, a humbug.

You seem to think the glowing account on page 313 "great exagerations of the facts." Bee-keepers, who ought to know, say that there are *no facts* even, in the statement. He may be posted in bee-culture, but the convention derived no new ideas from him. D. D. PALMER.

Pres. W. B. K. Convention.

Eliza, Mercer Co., Ill., Oct. 6, 1877.

For the American Bee Journal.

The Express Companies.

On April 18th, we sent by the United States Express Company, to Messrs. Tinklepaugh & Co., of Preston, Minn., to Cresco, Iowa, a colony of bees. Preston is about 20 miles distant from Cresco. On May 4th, Mr. Facey, of the firm of Tinklepaugh & Co., went to Cresco, and was answered by the Express agent, that no bees had arrived for them. Mr. Facey then wrote us from Cresco, urging us to send the bees without further delay. We sent word to the Express Company and on May 18th, Mr. Facey received a card from the Express agent of Cresco, that there were bees at his office waiting for him.

Mr. Facey went to Cresco the next morning and found the bees dead; they had starved. Of course we replaced the colony. Then we wrote to the Express Company, asking if they were ready to pay for the dead colony, at the sight of an affidavit of Mr. Facey, purporting that he had been answered on May 4th, that there were no bees for him at the Express office of Cresco. The superintendent of the Express Company answered that the letter of Mr. Facey, dated and stamped at Cresco on May 4th, together with his affidavit were not a sufficient evidence that he had presented himself to the Express office and that he was ready to follow suit from court to court, if we resolved to sue the Company.

On the 5th of August Messrs. Levy & Baker of the State of Louisiana received from us a box, in which we had sent them three queens. Every compartment of the box were opened carefully under a mosquito bar, but they contained only a few workers and no queens. Several persons were present at the opening of the boxes.

A week later Mr. Etienne Major, of the same State, received also a box of bees from us. This box contained only 11 workers, 3 dead and 8 alive, and no queens. The fact was corroborated by several persons. Of course these four queens had been stolen on the way. We happened to replace these queens, fastening the boxes with sealed strings, to make them robber proof; and we asked the American Express Company if they were ready to pay for these losses.

The Company did not answer our letter; but their agent replied verbally, that there can be no doubt that our queens were stolen; but that the Company does not guarantee against the death or escape of living animals.

Our queens have escaped from the boxes into the hives of one of the Express employes; but if we want to get the value of our losses, we have to incur the risks and annoyances of a law suit. We are resolved to try it. Yet both the Companies, which are so hard and so unjust towards us, have for years, gained several hundred dollars with our goods.

At several times before we have experienced similar losses; we have been, more than at one time, satisfied that our queens had been changed on their way to our astonishment; some times we have had queens missing; but never before had we encountered such a daring thief as the one who has stolen these four queens.

I will not speak of the queens and colonies killed by the Express agent. It would be a long and tedious list to read.

What is the use of these Express companies? They are a nuisance, like a fifth wheel to a wagon and a heavy one at that; with their Presidents, Vice-presidents, Superintendents, etc., who fill their purses without tendering a service equivalent for their high salaries.

In Europe there are no express companies. The railroad employes do the business. Suppose that you desire to bring with you some goods, when journeying by railroad; your goods, here, will be refused; because the railroad companies have made a compromise with the Express Company not to let the travelers bring with them any goods —their trunks excepted.

In Europe you arrive at the station with every thing it pleases you to bring; you take your ticket, then your goods are weighed. You are entitled to 60 lbs free, you pay for the surplus, and your goods are delivered to you on your arrival.

Don't you think that the European system is better?

But here we cannot dispense with such encumbrances as the Express Company; the Fast Freight, the Red Line, the Star Line and several others; all taking good wages for small work. We cannot dispense with such nuisances as long as the railroads will be in the hands of *more than five hundred companies*; which, like the Express, have an *Etat-Major* of costly officers, who have little to do but to pocket our money. This brings me to the idea of the railroad reform, which consists in putting all the

railroads in the hands of the Government. No doubt this idea will seem an *utopia* to some of my readers; yet it is, and it will be every day, more among the topics of our times, for sooner or later we will resort to it, as it did begin in Europe. Imagine the post offices in the hands of 500 companies and see what disorder. Do you think that our letters would be as safe, as quickly transported and as cheaply? The putting of all the public services: railroad, telegraphs, insurances, in the hands of the Government, would give more than 50 per cent. of economy, with a better service. Besides, we would gain in celerity, in security and in morality, by the suppression of all the unnecessary wheels which now encumber all these services. I know that, in spite of the press, which is not ready to abandon its privileges of traveling with free passes, in spite of most of our political men, who have sold themselves to the railroad companies by accepting their free tickets, the above question, which is already agitated in private circles, will be a part of the next Presidential platform.

I have a word more to say and I have done.

Last year I had a telegram sent to Italy. I was asked 95 cents in gold each word. I had made my figures, they amounted to 75 cents. Then the agent detailed its figures: so much from Hamilton to New York; so much from New York to London; so much from London to Paris; so much from Paris to Italy. "But I don't want that my dispatch be sent to London. It will not be understood by the London agents, and they will make some mistakes. I want you to send my telegram through the French telegraphic company." "It is impossible; my company does not correspond with the French line." The result was, that after costing 20 cents more per word, my telegram was mispelled; two words could not be understood.

Such are the fruits of competition in public services. Higher rates and bad work.

CH. DADANT.

For the American Bee Journal.

Nil Desperandum.

I suggest a new column in the JOURNAL; instead of blasted hopes let us call it hopes realized. To initiate the movement, I will give you my experience in bee-culture:

In the spring of 1871 I procured my first bees, consisting of four colonies, three of which died in wintering, leaving me with one weak colony the following spring; that year they did not swarm nor make any box honey, however they survived the following winter. By dint of good luck and a very little managing, in a blind sort of way, I succeeded that season in obtaining one new colony, but they gave no box-honey.

The spring of 1873 found my bees alive. Encouraged by this, I purchased two other colonies.

The truth had gradually dawned upon me that there might be some magic in skill, as well as in good luck. I now invested in bee literature, subscribed to the different bee publications, and commenced bee-culture on a scientific basis. The result was that in the autumn of that year I had increased from four colonies to eleven, and obtained a little honey.

The winter following, five colonies died, leaving me six; these I increased before the next autumn to 16, and secured $75 worth of honey. Five colonies of these went to the happy hunting ground, in wintering, leaving me 11. I then whistled up my courage to the tune that "there's luck in odd numbers," which maxim I proved by increasing my bees to 23 colonies, and obtaining from their labor $100 worth of box-honey.

The spring which followed shone upon 16 colonies in my apiary, these I increased to 21, two of which died in wintering. I sold two colonies. I discovered one colony to be queenless; to this I added a weak one and they built themselves into a strong garrison.

To begin the season of 1877, I had 15 vigorous colonies; these I have increased to 28, and now that the season is at an end, I find on counting the spoils, that my little workers have yielded me, since last apple-blossoming, 1,300 lbs. of prime box honey, worth at my door from 22 to 25c. per lb.

J. H. KENNEDY.

Homer, N.Y., Oct. 2, 1877.

[No new column is needed. "Hopes Realized," as well as "Blasted Hopes," find a place. The A. B. J. is the organ of no clique or party, and will give all a fair and full chance to "tell their experience" in "committee of the whole."—ED.]

Southern Kentucky Association.

This Association held its semi-annual meeting at Glasgow, on Wednesday, Oct. 3d. Dr. N. P. Allen, President, and Jas. Erwin, Sec. pro tem.

After prayer, communications were read from C. F. Muth, Cincinnati, O., and P. P. Collier, Benton City, Mo. On motion, the thanks of the Society were tendered to these gentlemen for their valuable communications.

At the request of the President quite a number of persons united with this Society.

The President appointed the following committees:

Arrangements—N. H. Holman, S. S. Duvall and S. T. Botts.

Exhibition—J. G. Allen, T. E. Shelton and E. G. Martin.

State of Bee-Culture—W. L. Dulaney, Wm. Cook and N. N. Greer.

Questions for Discussion at next Meeting—T. W. Sears, H. W. Sanders, S. T. Botts, Asa Young and W. W. Wright.

The following questions were then taken up: "Can there be any improvements on the two-story Langstroth hive?"

Mr. J. G. Allen thought the Langstroth hive good enough.

Mr. Wright thought a wire-cloth bottom to the hive an advantage; had some hives of that style and found a great many moths under the wire-cloth; thought it a good plan to catch them.

Mr. Shelton thought moth-traps a delusion and calculated to mislead bee-keepers.

Mr. Sears agreed with Mr. Shelton.

Mr. Ellis used two entrances, one at bottom and one at top of brood chamber; had noticed that the bees went in at the bottom and out at the top entrance.

Mr. Shelton used frames 9x12 inches; ob-

jected to the length of the Langstroth frame.

Dr. Allen had used none but Langstroth hives; thought others might be used with equal success; considered it very important to have all the hives in the apiary the same size.

"How to secure straight comb?"

Mr. Shelton took small bits of comb or wax and stuck along the comb guide and sides of frame.

Mr. Sears raised the rear end of the hive several inches highter than the front, and found it an advantage in securing straight comb.

Dr. Allen thought comb foundation might be used to advantage for this purpose.

Dr. Botts succeeded in securing straight comb by using a wax-comb guide.

Adjourned to 1:30 p. m., when the Secretary read the following essay from Dr. Botts, of Barren Co., on

PLEASURE AND PROFIT OF BEE-KEEPING.

To the intelligent bee-keeper there is real pleasure in the care and management of bees, and they are almost sure to become his favorite stock—his pets. He will derive more satisfaction in the apiary than anywhere on his farm—save his family circle. See him as he moves about his hives, observing each one, and seeming to notice almost every bee that passes in or out; how intently he sits down by the side of a strong colony in time of a plentiful harvest and watches the heavy-laden workers as they fall wearily on the bottom board, or on a leaf, or sprig of grass at the entrance, to rest a moment before going in to deposit the rich burdens in their beautiful combs.

He loves to see them as they rush in and out on their busy errands, bringing in delicious nectar, red and golden, yellow or white pellets of bee-bread or pollen; all have something to do. All are busy, busy bees. Go into the fields and gardens with him and watch them as they fly from flower to flower in quest of the sweets which nature fills them with; see how industrious, never stopping to rest. When we open a hive and find it filled with nice comb and honey, how beautiful it is! We take out the comb piece after piece and look it over with pride and satisfaction to see with what unceasing energy they have labored and filled their home with rich treasures.

We now go into the lower department of the hive and there we find still more of the wonderful workings of the colony; here we see, perhaps, one or two frames of honey and pollen on each side; between these the brood-nest—the nursery. Here are thousands of eggs and young bees in all stages of development; the queen, slender and graceful, moving about majestically among her progeny, respected and honored by all. Wherever she goes we see the others make room for her, while she is constantly surrounded by a circle of admiring workers. How interesting she is as she moves over every part of the comb in search of empty cells in which to lay. Here, also, are bees too young to work in the fields, busily engaged in feeding those still younger, and preparing and depositing in cells the jelly-like substance on which the larvæ subsist. While they are thus engaged, others are at work hermetically sealing those cells containing brood far enough advanced to be sealed.

It is pleasing and interesting to look on and see all this, and it affords a great deal more pleasure to the apiarist than any one else, because he understands and appreciates the work they are engaged in. We ehjoy the swarming season because it is not only interesting, but exciting. I do not see how any one who loves bees, or has anything to do with them, can keep from becoming excited when a swarm is on the wing. Their hum is musical and fascinating to every lover of bee-culture. To see them rush pell-mell from the hive as if driven from it by the cry of fire, and fill the air with a loud roaring noise for some time, and then selecting some suitable branch of a tree, settle in a large cluster and hang there almost motionless, unless swayed to and fro by the wind, has a charm about it that has to be seen and felt to be realized. When the swarm has settled, how eagerly do we go to work to hive it, not because we do not wish to lose it, but that we enjoy it. Almost all the work we have to do in the apiary is pleasant; there is nothing irksome about it. It is light and pleasant enough for ladies to engage in, and we should encourage them to take part in promoting bee-culture.

Aside from the pleasures of bee-keeping, the profits are far greater than can be realized from the same amount of capital invested in any other stock. Say bees pay an average of 20 per cent., then would not the profits exceed those paid for the use of money at common rates of interest? But we know by past experience that, when well managed, they hardly ever pay less than 100 per cent., and often as much as 500, and it requires but little extra time for any one to successfully manage from 10 to 20 stocks of bees.

The most expensive part of bee-culture is at the beginning. We have to buy bees, hives and other apiarian supplies, but when once bought, if well cared for, they will last almost a life-time.

By getting our bees in good condition, and giving them the necessary care, we may confidently expect to be well paid for the expenses we have incurred and the pains we have taken. To illustrate: Last spring I purchased four colonies, two of them very strong and two weaker, for which I paid $12.25. They were all in log gums; I transferred them as early as possible, and from one of them I extracted over 100 lbs. of fine honey—enough to more than pay for all of them. Besides, each one of the four gave me a large swarm, paying in honey and increase of stock at least 400 per cent., the best one of the four paying 600 or 700 per cent.

From 12 colonies I extracted 700 lbs. of honey. I have doubled my number of colonies, by natural and artificial swarming. There are very few pursuits in which we can invest a small amount of capital and make such handsome profits as in bee-culture. It has been well said of bees that they "are the only servants that work for nothing and board themselves."

To be successful, and make this avocation both pleasant and profitable, we must study it; for unless we understand how to properly manage our busy little insects we will soon meet with losses that will discourage us. We should also love the business, which we are very likely to do, if we know how to conduct it.

A little enthusiasm also will add to our success—hence the language of Prof. Cook: "Show me a scientific bee-keeper and I will show you an enthusiast."

Having cultivated a love for bee-keeping, become successful in it, and realized the pleasures and profitf of it, we may say:

"Thou cheerful Bee! come, freely come,
And travel round my floral bower;
Delight me with thy wand'ring hum,
And rouse me from my musing hour.
Oh! try no more those tedious fields,
My honied treasures all are thine;
Come, taste the sweets my garden yields.
The bud, the blossom—all are thine."

On motion, the thanks of the Society were tendered Dr. Botts for his valuable communication, and it was ordered to be printed with the minutes.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

Your committee on the State of Bee-Culture report that so far as it is advised the culture of bees throughout Southern Kentucky is greatly improving—as much in the number of those engaged in it, as in the methods employed. The public attention has been attracted by the many publications and discussions concerning it; and while your committee speak more advisedly in reference to Warren and Barren counties, it is informed by persons in other counties that at no period has the culture of bees been so prosperous. The early harvest this year was splendid in some localities; in Cumberland Co. the late harvest was even more so, and the fruitful yield of honey has attracted the attention of many who have not heretofore worked with bees. Every bee-culturist knows the extreme fascination there is in the pursuit; and, added to this, the erection of regular places of sale and the creation of a regular market for the product will greatly assist further progress in this particular.

WILLIAM DULANEY,
W. COOKE,
I. N. GREER, } Com.

We, your Committee on Apiarian Supplies, beg leave to report that there have been exhibited at this session of the Society the following articles:

From T. G. Newman & Son, Chicago, Ill., Cook's Manual, Hunter's Manual, King's Text Book, Benedict's Honey Bee, Kretchmer's Guide, Hill's Artificial Swarms, Wintering Bees, Dzierzon Theory, Muth's honey jars, Van Dusen's bee feeder, Emerson's binders, honey knives, three sizes of Bingham's smoker, Alley smoker, comb foundation, registering slates, and honey labels.

From C. F. Muth, Cincinnati, O.: his extractor, and Langstroth hive.

From R. A. Alexander, Smith's Grove, Ky.: an extractor.

From J. G. Alexander, Grider, Ky.: a bee smoker.

From Mrs. Nancy Greer, Glasgow Junction, Ky.: bee veils.

Where two of a kind was exhibited there was not always unanimity of opinion as to which was best, or the most reasonable in price, but in no case would either fail of its purpose; the individual taste of the bee-keeper would alone determine a choice. The books exhibited were standards of art, and reasonable in price, and every bee-keeper ought to have some of them. We recommend the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL published by T. G. Newman & Son, at Chicago.

T. E. SHELTON,
JAS. G. ALLEN,
E. G. MARTIN, } Com.

QUESTIONS FOR DEBATE.

Your committee would submit the following questions for debate at next meeting:

1st. What is the best honey-producing plant?

2nd. What is the best method of wintering bees?

3rd. How shall we dispose of our surplus honey?

4th. What is the best method of raising and introducing queens, and what time of year?

5th. What distance apart should hives be set in the apiary?

6th. Which is the best—natural or artificial swarming?

7th. How shall we prevent bees robbing?

H. W. SANDERS,
W. T. SEARS,
S. T. BOTTS,
A. E. YOUNG,
W. W. WRIGHT, } Com.

On motion, the various reports were received and committees discharged.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President—Dr. N. P. Allen; Secretary—H. W. Sanders; Assistant Secretary—Jas. Erwin; Treasurer—W. W. Wright.

The next question was then taken up:—"What is the best method of transferring bees?" Dr. Allen described the process at length, and remarked that no beginner can do this as it should be done—it required an experienced hand.

Dr. Botts endorsed Dr. Allen's method, and recommended strips of wood for fastening comb in frames.

W. W. Wright thought fruit-blossoming time the best season for transferring.

Moved and seconded that the Langstroth hive be recommended as the best in use. Carried.

The following resolution was offered and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the members of the Southern Bee-Keepers' Association tender their thanks to the city of Glasgow for their generous hospitality; to Prof. Mell and the young ladies for their sweet music, and also to those who have kindly furnished apiarian supplies for exhibition.

On motion, the President and Secretary were requested to have the minutes of this meeting published in the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL and the Glasgow *Times*.

The convention then adjourned to meet at Glasgow Junction, on the first Tuesday in May, 1878, at 10 a. m.

N. P. ALLEN, *Pres.*

JAS. ERWIN, *Sec.*

From the Dominion Poultry Gazette.

Care of Bees in Winter.

Many successful apiarists contend that there is no better way to winter bees than to allow the hive to remain isolated in the yard where they were kept during the summer and fall; and they point to their success in many years past for reliable evidence to corroborate the correctness of their assertions. The fact that bees have been kept satisfactorily in the forgoing

manner, does not prove that such a practice can be recommended as the best under all circumstances, for hundreds have attempted to keep their bees without proper protection during the winter, and have lost nearly every hive.

There is one fact in which intelligent bee-keepers will agree, viz., that a colony will winter best when the hive is kept in a location where the temperature will not be quickly affected by the rapid transitions from warm to very cold, and *vice versa*. One thing in particular should be guarded against, that is: no hive should be placed where it will be exposed, even for a single hour, to the rays of the sun. When a hive stands in the sunshine for a few hours, the wall or sides will be heated up, the little workers will be enlivened and the pleasant outlook will invite thousands of them to spread their wings and fly away to the fields. But, alas, before they have flown many yards, they will become chilled to such an extent that they will drop to the ground and perish, as they cannot recover sufficient strength to get back to their homes.

This teaches us the importance of guarding every hive from the fury of fierce winds and also from the cheerful sunshine. When the hive is in an isolated place it needs a cover to turn the rain and snow, and boards, rails or brush, placed on every side of the hive to obscure the light of the sun and to break the force of the cold wind. So long as bees are kept in the shade, well protected, where they can discover little or no light, the temperature of the interior of the hive will be more uniform, and only a limited number will escape from the hives and perish.

P. H. GIBBS.

For the American Bee Journal.

Sundry Thoughts on Bee-Keeping.

It is an old saying, "In time of peace prepare for war." The season for active operations amongst the honey bees is past, they having been placed in proper condition for winter ere the issuing of the Dec. number of the JOURNAL. "Procrastination is the thief of time," and one of the greatest faults of the apiarist, therefore it is well to prepare for the next season's campaign, first by giving forethought to the subject matter in hand, then proceed to action. At our leasure hours we can repair and prepare our hives and surplus honey receptacles, review our bee literature, become masters of the science to the full extent of all present knowledge that has been published.

There are new subjects and thoughts in this connection that may be worth a passing notice, consideration and investigation. I notice in the JOURNAL that a Mr. Oldt, of Pa., has devised a very simple process by which bees may be caused to hive themselves. I have examined it thoroughly, caused a model to be constructed, and have full confidence that it will work every time. Now comes in this connection the question, how can we prevent their swarming themselves to death in common box hives?

A neighbor of mine is under the necessity of destroying ten swarms in an apiary of 25, —too small to winter. If the mother hive was placed in a dark, cool cellar on the evening of, say the ninth day after the first swarm will not all the young queens have emerged, if they so remain at the end of say 8 or 10 days confinement, and will they not have their fight out and have killed all the young queens except one? At the expiration of which time we should remove them to their old stand.

Will not the fact that they gather no honey during the confinement be one cause of their killing their surplus queens? It may be objected that we are confining our bees just at the best honey season for the term of eight days, is it not far better than to let them swarm themselves to almost certain destruction?

These thoughts are for those that keep their bees in the common box hive or gum. I have had no opportunity to test it since the suggestion, but am of opinion it will accomplish the object.

E. ROOD.

Wayne, Mich., Nov. 8, 1877.

For the American Bee Journal.

Shipping Bees.

My bees were prepared for shipment by removing the top and super and folding one-third of the honey cloth, which was heavy ducking, back and replacing with wire-cloth. The whole was thoroughly tacked down so that no bees could get out. Entrance covered with wire-cloth; top inverted and hive set into it right side up. The bees were prepared on April 22 and 23; hauled five miles in a lumber wagon, and placed aboard an Ill. Central R. R. car at Alma, Ill., on April 24th. Arriving here 4 days later in a severe snow storm, I allowed them to remain in the car until May 1st, when the snow disappeared, and I removed them two miles into the country and set them on their stands at once. The day being warm, and bees but little excited, I opened the entrance, which was soon discovered and warmly welcomed by the little prisoners.

Number shipped, 72; received in good condition, 67; starving, 2, which swarmed out the following day and entered other hives; and 3 were *hors de combat*, probably froze. On May 3rd I began to feed 20 of the lighter ones and continued so until May 16th, after that the flowers yielded honey in sufficient quantity to enable them all to get a living.

J. N. MCCOLM.

Plymouth, Wis., Oct. 20, 1877.

From Dominion Poultry Gazette.

A Bee Hunt in Florida.

We were all comfortably seated at "Magnolia Grove" one evening, engaged in talking over the prospects of the orange crop, when we were suddenly interrupted by a loud knock on the outside door. "Come in," said the planter. The words were hardly spoken when the door was opened by a large darkey, who, with hat in hand, stalked into the middle of the room and paused in front of our host. "Well, Pomp, what is wanted?" said the planter. "I've done gone and found 'em, sure," was the reply. "Found what, Pomp?" said our host, forgetting a previous conversation he had with old Pomp. "Why, de bees and honey, doesn't you disremember, massa, how I tole you I was goin' to look in de swamp for dat swarm you has lost last season, massa Stevens?" "O, yes, Pomp, I

had entirely forgotton it," was the reply. "In the morning we will go out and find them, and bag the honey. Now, Pomp, you may go," and as the old darkey retired, the planter inquired of us if we would like to go a bee hunting. Of course, we replied in the affirmative.

The next morning found us up bright and early, and at the table it was thought best to go to the swamp as soon as the hands could be got together. In about an hour old Pomp and about five or six of his African companions put in an appearance, armed with axes, pails, one or two bundles of rice straw and a sufficient quantity of brimstone to kill all the bees in the State. "Where is the swarm?" inquired our host of Pomp, who carried an axe sufficiently large enough to have delighted the followers of Richard, the Lion-Hearted. "In de cyprus; 'im near de brake," was the reply. "Lead the way, then,"—and off we trudged through the cane fields, until we reached the edge of the swamp.

"Dat's de tree, massa," said Pomp, at last, as we reached a large cyprus that had doubtless raised its head aloft for many years, above its fellows. We gazed at the tree in silence, and at a height of over 20 ft. or more from the ground, discovered a hole from which the bees were going in and coming out. "Down with it," said the owner of the cyprus, and the words were no sooner spoken than Pomp and Black Jake "laid too" with an earnestness that was quite surprising.

The tree was no sooner down than Pomp moved cautiously towards the bee-hole in her side, and after taking due observations, gave it as his opinion "dat de ole tree had a powerful lot of honey in her." "You had better chop into her side," said the planter, addressing Pomp, who had taken the precaution to stand at a safe distance from the cyprus. "Pears as how I'd like to know where de honey is lodged," said Pomp. "I reckons as how its above de hole, but I dosen't zackly know," queried the old darkey as he mounted the trunk of the tree next the hole, keeping a sharp look out in the meanwhile for any stray bees that might be flying round. Pomp raised his axe and struck a few well-directed blows, and at length a considerable opening was made in its sides. In the meanwhile the boys (or hands) had fixed a long pole to a bundle of rice straw and filled it with brimstone, so as to destroy the bees. Pomp had no sooner cleared off the last chip from the tree, than the bees sallied out in numbers to see what the intruders were about.

Pomp gave one jump and landed a rod from the tree, pitching in to the darkies like a mad bull at a herd of strange cattle. We all got away from the tree as fast as our legs could carry us, and watched at a short distance the doings of the honey makers. At length the straw was lighted and young Moore, who "wosen't affeared," approached the tree and thrust the flaming brand into the cavity. It blazed away in right good earnest, the brimstone emitting a rank odor, as if doing thoroughly its work. At length it was all consumed and the long pole withdrawn. A few bees only flew around the hole and their entire destruction seemed well nigh ensured.

Pomp now put on a pair of gloves, and putting some coarse netting over his head, mounted the tree and soon found the coveted sweets. The honey was considerably jammed by the fall, but was of excellent quality and of sufficient quantity to well repay the trouble of getting it. The buckets were brought up, and Pomp took it out, the pails being moved away by the little darkeys, all anxious to help now that the bees were "clean gone." Four right good buckets were filled, and the boys gathered up a quantity of broken and refuse comb for "de chilen of de plantation." We now wended our way back to "Magnolia Grove," the older darkies singing a lively song, while the younger ones were filling themselves with the product of the old cyprus.

E. R. BILLINGS.

For the American Bee Journal.

A Novel Experiment.

I conceive it is the duty of every reader of the JOURNAL to contribute to its columns every item which may come within the range of his personal observation which savors of the "new." Not that anything is absolutely *new;* but because a great many things which are perfectly familiar to some may be absolutely new to others less favored by circumstances or long experience. And by so doing each may contribute his "mite" to the fund of general, useful knowledge. This is my only apology for troubling the readers of the JOURNAL with the following:

On yesterday, Sunday, Oct. 14th, in our latitude, 131 miles north of Cincinnati, the thermometer, at 1 p.m., stood at 77°, and the day was every way lovely; yet my pets seemed torpid; and while watching a nucleus which had a virgin queen of sufficient age to take a "bridal tour," I discovered a commotion at the entrance of the hive for some ten minutes, as if her virgin majesty intended to explore the outer world; but it soon became quiet. I then visited two other nuclei which had virgin queens of the same age, but all was quiet—they were nuclei from which I had removed queens, intending to unite them, but had neglected it until they had reared queens. I then thought to try the effect of warming the hive up, by feeding a little warm honey to one. The effort worked like magic, for in less than five minutes the whole colony had lost its temper, and in a very short space of time her majesty appeared at the entrance and made a fruitless effort to fly—her wings were defective.

I then tried the same experiment on the remaining two nuclei, which had, up to that time, shown no symptoms of the commotion which usually attends the departure of a queen on her mating flight; and in less than five minutes both queens appeared at the entrance and departed on their aerial voyages. One returned in about 3 minutes while the other was on the wing about 10 minutes, and when she returned she bore evidences of fertilization. I was unable to ascertain whether or not the other one left the hive again, but on examination an hour later I found that she had become fertilized. From every indication neither of the queens would have left the hive on that day, but for the stimulating effect of the warm honey; and I think I am not claiming too much to say that I owe the fertilization of two queens to the novel experiment.

This may be a familiar proceeding to many apiarists, but it was new to me, having never seen it spoken of in the JOURNAL in a reading for some years. If so, it can do no harm. If there are even some who, like myself, were ignorant of the effect of feeding thus, it may be of great service to them in a like emergency. J. E. RICHIE.

Lima, O., Oct. 15, 1877.

For the American Bee Journal.

Imported Queens.

Ever since bees were first imported from Italy we have heard that imported bees and queens are dark. Well, I have found this so, until within a short time. Beautiful and high colored queens have been found in Italy, and they have found their way to this country, too. I have such queens, and am sorry that I did not get them earlier in the season. I find them as prolific as any queens, and the workers very peaceable and quiet. I was always of the opinion that such queens could be found in either Italy or Germany.

Now that the price of imported queens is so low most any one can afford to have one or more of them. Bee-keepers should introduce more or less new queens into their apiaries, each year; the money paid for them would be well invested. I don't like "in-and-in breeding." I have reared 2,000 queens from one mother and not 100 drones. Not one of her daughters were ever fertilized by any of her male progeny.

H. ALLEY.

Central Kentucky Association.

This Association met in Forresters' Hall, Lexington, Ky., on Monday, Oct. 8th, and elected officers for the ensuing year, as follows:

President—Prof. James K. Patterson.

Vice-Presidents—H. C. Herspuryer, Jessamine Co.; Thos. Hayes, Fayette; John W. Bean, Clark; Dr. L. S. Mitchell, Bourbon; Wm. Boone, Woodford.

Secretary—W. Williamson, Lexington.

Treasurer—J. M. Holman, Fayette.

On motion of Dr. N. P. Allen, the following committee was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws for the government of this association: H. C. Herspuryer, J. M. Holman and W. Williamson.

The committee reported, and on motion the constitution and by-laws as offered were adopted.

Dr. Allen delivered an interesting address on bee-culture, and spoke of Mr. Doolittle, of N. Y., and his wonderful success in apiculture, having taken 11,177 lbs. of honey, part comb and part extracted, from 67 colonies of bees in one season. He confirmed Mr. Doolittle's statement by his own success; referred to Mr. Harbison, of California, as being the greatest bee-keeper in the world, having shipped at one time last year to New York, the enormous quantity of ten car-loads of honey. The Doctor's own experience taught him that bees can be as easily controlled as any other stock on the farm when properly managed. An ordinary colony of bees in a Langstroth hive consists of from 20,000 to 25,000. He used the Langstroth hive exclusively, and a resolution passed by the Southern B. K. Association (of which he is president), recommended the exclusive use of the Langstroth hive as superior to all others. He thought ladies ought to be persuaded to take a deeper interest in bee-culture, the great fear seemed to be that of being stung, but modern appliances were such that the most delicate lady in the land could work with bees with perfect safety. His association has a great many lady members, and his impression is that the success of an association of this kind depended a great deal on the interest taken in it by the ladies; and as ladies are admitted to membership free of all expense, every married member should have his wife join, if not married have his sister join, and if he has no sister have some one else's sister join. He was in favor of young men going into bee-keeping and making a life study and business out of it, and is of the opinion that the day is not far distant when apiculture will be taught in colleges as commonly as any other branch of education.

Mr. Herspuryer being called, said he had very little to say after so many good things said by Dr. Allen, and said correctly, but would merely relate how he became a bee-keeper. Some years ago his wife persuaded him to get some bees; and accidently about that time, a swarm passed over his farm and was captured. From that day his interest was aroused. He bought King's Text Book, then subscribed for a bee paper; bought some Italian queens and a few colonies of bees, in all amounting to about $100. His neighbors laughed at him and his speculation, and if he had failed, the "I told you so's" would have haunted him to this day. But the first season proved a success as every other has with him since, and the consequence was it established him a hero in bee-culture at once. He cautioned beginners about being over sanguine, as bee-keeping must be pursued with some love for the business, and adaptability of the person to the business, and this pursued intelligently for success.

Mr. Williamson said the thanks of this association was due Dr. N. P. Allen, of Warren Co., for the deep interest he has taken in this association, having traveled over 200 miles, on a common invitation to be with us, without any compensation whatever, while many bee-keepers within hailing distance had failed to attend.

Motion carried, and President Patterson, in behalf of the association, tendered thanks to Dr. Allen in eloquent terms for the interest he had taken in this association, and the general advancement of the success of apiculture.

On motion, Dr. N. P. Allen was enrolled as an honorary member of this association.

Mr. Williamson, on honey - producing plants, said the subject of honey-producing plants is a theme of such vast importance, that I feel it a duty to call the earnest attention of every bee-keeper in Kentucky to aid us in and through their practical experience inform this association from time to time, the most profitable and best honey-producing plants adapted to this climate.

The names of honey-producing plants are legion, first among them for profit on the farm, is alsike clover, which has only been introduced in this country but a few years, and is considered by the best judges to be superior to all others both in hardiness, productiveness, and general adaptability as a farm crop. The Chinese mustard plant is

considered by some, as profitable a plant as can be sown. The common catnip, that is generally despised as a worthless weed, is one of the very best honey-producing plants that grows, and every bee-keeper should look with tenderness on these little weeds and encourage their production rather than destruction. But sweet mignonnette is the queen of all honey-producing plants that bloom from June until December. This of all other plants ought to be raised to a certain extent, by every bee-keeper without exception. Not only for its unrivalled honey-producing qualities, and the splendid aromatic flavor of the honey thus produced, but for its beauty and fragrance. When it is planted or sown to any extent, our atmosphere will vie with the spicy breezes of Ceylon. I might enumerate and eulogise the good qualities of a thousand honey-producing plants, trees and shrubs, that are ornamental and useful, but, in fact, there is hardly a plant that grows that does not produce honey. I merely mention these few to set you to thinking over the subject. With one kind word for the "busy bee," hoping the time is not far distant when all who keep a garden of flowers may welcome the little worker as kindly.

"Thou cheerful bee! come, freely come
And travel round my floral bower;
Delight me with thy wand'ring hum,
And rouse me from my musing hour.
Oh! try no more those tedious fields,
My honied treasures all are thine;
Come, taste the sweets my garden yields,
The bud, the blossom, all—all are thine."

There was quite an interesting display of apiarian supplies on exhibition, such as bee-keepers' text-books, bee papers, and many things necessary to the successful management of an apiary.

On motion, the next place of meeting will be in Lexington, the first Tuesday in May, at 10 a. m., and hereafter regularly on the first Tuesday in May and October.

W. WILLIAMSON. *Sec.*

For the American Bee Journal.

Doolittle's Report.

I have just read an article in the last issue, from G. M. Doolittle, Borodino, N. Y., to which, with my experience, observation and information, it is difficult to give full credence. I do not say, for I do not know, that what he says is not true, but it sounds to me much exaggerated.

He says he commenced this season with 67 stocks; that his honey season commenced June 18th and ceased Aug. 25th—two months and 7 days. That in this time he took 10,284 lbs. of box honey from 45 stocks, and 893 lbs. of extracted from 2 stocks—one stock yielding 566 lbs.,—that 3 stocks yielded respectively 288, 301, and 309 lbs. of box honey; that one colony yielded in 3 days 66 lbs.; that during his honey season of 67 days, his 67 stocks averaged 166¾ lbs. each, being 2½ lbs. for each colony per day; that in addition to all this his stocks had increased from 67 to 152, all in good condition for winter, and having, of course, 25 to 30 lbs. each, which would make his average yield per stock about 192 lbs. He concludes by saying, that for the last 5 years, with an average of 50 stocks, he had cleared $6,000.

Now, Mr. Editor, if all this is true, Bro. Doolittle's name should be changed to Doo-*much*. If it is not true, he ought not to have written such an article, and you ought not to have published it, for it will induce many into the bee business, resulting in failure and loss. JNO. FOX.

Columbia, Tenn., Oct. 16, 1877.

[We cannot doubt friend Doolittle's correctness. The report is large, but he has for years made a good report each season. There is so much difference in seasons as well as localities, that what looks almost impossible to some, may, with everything favorable, be easily accomplished by others. We expect a full report of his management in a future number of the JOURNAL. He is building now and preparing for winter, when that is over he will prepare an article on his mode of treatment and management. —ED.]

One signing himself "A Novice," writes from Otisco Valley, N. Y., Oct. 12, 1877, and remarks as follows:

"Mr. Doolittle says basswood opened on July 14th and lasted until the 28th, which with teasel yielded abundantly. This is undoubtedly correct, but he claims this to be white honey. Basswood, we all know, yields abundantly the very finest of honey, but teasel honey is very dark, as dark as West India molasses, much darker than buckwheat, and is of a very strong flavor. I have lived in a locality where much teasel is raised. Dullness of trade has stopped the farmers growing it, much to the joy of bee-keepers in this locality. This must not be understood as a slur on friend Doolittle, it is not; thinking his report might induce some to plant teasel for honey, I write a word of warning. If teasel will not pay to grow for market, it certainly will not for honey.

"My honey crop has been very good. I commenced the season with 59 colonies; increased to 110, and got, in cap honey, 4,698 lbs., which is about nine-tenths white."

[The honey we saw in New York, exhibited by friends Betsinger and Doolittle was not *dark* honey by any means—and they aver it was gathered from teasel. Will friend Betsinger tell us more about the teasel and its honey, for our next issue?—ED.]

For the American Bee Journal.

Marketing Honey.

Perhaps the readers of the JOURNAL would be interested with a brief sketch of how we marketed our honey this season. We live 12 miles from the railroad, and had to haul our honey that distance on a spring wagon. Our honey was shipped by freight and went through to New York in fine condition. We placed in the front of each car three bags of sawdust, laying them on the bottom and against the front end. Then we placed two tiers of crates on the bottom of the car, then three bags more of sawdust, then two tiers more of crates, and so on until the car was filled, when bags of sawdust were crowded down at the back end of the

car. Thus it will be seen that the sudden jar while coupling the cars was all obviated, which is the only jar sufficient to break honey in transit.

We gave the sawdust to Thurber & Co., but afterwards learned that we could have sold it for $7 to $9. The sawdust cost us nothing for freight. We supposed we knew how to handle honey, but when we saw Thurber & Co. put a whole car load (9,000 lbs.) on one truck and haul it to their store, we concluded we knew nothing about it.

We found Thurber & Co. to be gentlemen in every sense of the word. They do not ask a man to wait for the pay for his honey, but as soon as it is delivered the cash is ready. We would advise bee-keepers having honey to sell to correspond with them.

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

Borodino, N.Y., Nov. 5, 1877.

For the American Bee Journal.

Open Letter to Prof. A. J. Cook.

DEAR FRIEND.—Let me thank you for your candor and honesty in treating the subject upon which we differ so widely. Though I cannot think you right upon this subject of supply and demand, I am pleased to think you honest and unbiased by any personal interests, which is more than can be said of many praisers of the business.

I think L. C. Root's reply to your claim of a great deal for a little, also honest and entirely correct. Such remarks as yours, above referred to, if they should be spread broadcast, and be generally believed, would be the ruin of many now prosperous apiarists, and nearly all of the new beginners that would embark. It is not foundation nor extractors that has produced so much nice honey in such marketable shape, lately, but a certain enthusiasm and care only found among specialists.

Many of our most successful honey producers use no modern appliances, but much prefer comb honey production to the use of the extractor, and will not use foundation in any shape. One says "foundation is a failure in the brood chamber;" another, that "it is not fit for boxes;" others that they don't want it at all. Some of those that are "getting on" fastest, raise comb honey almost exclusively, and assure us that its production is the most profitable. That lands us back to where Langstroth stood, 20 years ago. For my own part, I consider both the extractor and foundation of use in some places, but it is only a non-essential at present. Now it strikes me that the enthusiasm of specialists is the very thing we should cherish, and to preserve that they must have remunerative prices for their productions, and they cannot accumulate a fair share of these productions unless they can have the honey "field" to themselves. No matter how much honey brings, if we have none to sell. If foreign countries take all our honey at good prices, then the next squabble will be for location, as it is in California where the bee-ists want Congress to grant them so many square miles, instead of quarter sections.

Jasper Hazen is nearer right, on the matter of over-stocking, than popular opinions. How much we might do to help us on in the business, if most of us were not all interested in, and full of middle-men's labors.

Now, friend Cook, allow me to say that I think you will have more occasion to feel "nervous about the knees" ere many seasons, than you have yet. California's disaster came to our rescue this time, and our home crop is small—but isn't it better to pray that men may never enter our ranks, than to rejoice in their failure, in order that we may succeed?

It seems to me that as long as honey is produced by specialists, and not too many of them and too close together, we may expect to see honey in every market in nice shape, selling at prices that will pay for labor and study for putting it in such shape. We may also expect to see bee papers and conventions supported and attended. We may also rest assured that useful supply-dealers will always find customers that will have money to pay for what they buy. But on the other hand, if every farmer, mechanic and invalid, in fact everyone who has failed at other pursuits, is induced to try bee-keeping—until such are driven from the field by the natural law of "the survival of the fitest,"—we shall see plenty of honey in tubs and pails, slopping about every grocery, selling at prices below cost of production, as in years gone by. Let us meet to further the interests of those already engaged, and let us like men welcome all volunteers, and we will see the consumption and demand keep just in advance of production, and consequently keep our business healthy, and our ranks composed of successful and reasonable men.

"One volunteer is worth two conscripts," both to himself and those around him. A specialist knows too much to crowd his bees into a field already occupied. He does not wish to spite any one, and if he did, he knows too much to "bite his own nose off to spite his face!" It is a pleasure to discuss a subject in which one feels so much interest, with one who feels just as much interest on the other side; and heaven knows I am open to conviction, and desire to be put right, wherever I am wrong, without delay.

JAMES HEDDON.

Dowagiac, Mich., Nov. 7, 1877.

For the American Bee Journal.

Comb Foundation.

Some difference of opinion still exists in regard to foundation, as to what extent and advantage it can be used. I would report the following experiment with nine sheets, 12x12. Last year I tried a few sheets, but as they were not pure wax, and the season too far advanced, I took them out, after several days, untouched. I made an observatory hive this year, with nine American frames; tacked the foundation on the top bar, tapered slightly on the sides down, and ⅜ inch from the bottom of frame. I took the queen and all the flying bees of a strong Italian colony from my park apiary and took this colony to my home in the middle of the city, and had them in the hive containing foundation at 8 in the morning, with a box of honey on top from which the bees could help themselves, which, however, they did not need. The first day was pleasant, the second rainy, and at 6 p.m. I looked at them, when the bees had become so reduced in number in the sugar houses that they had almost left the two outer combs; they had, however, stretched the cells

about ¼ inch over half way down. The third day was very warm; having omitted to shade the hive in the evening, the combs had sagged a little; this I cut off, and placed the two outer combs in the middle. On the fifth day every cell in the hive was worked out almost to its full size. I have no doubt that in the comb-building season a strong colony would leave no cell untouched within 3 days, with pure yellow wax foundation having the right sized cell.

About Sept. 12th, I took five small strips of foundation of the same kind, filled a one-comb 5x6 surplus box with it, placed it between other boxes on a colony which was working a surplus. About the 20th they had patched up the strips into a straight sheet, about an inch thick, and filled it with honey. A sheet of white foundation used the same way, they made no use of; it requires more heat to work it out than does the yellow wax. C. H. LEITTGENS.

Our Letter Box.

Carson City, Mich., Oct. 9, 1877.—"This has been the poorest season for honey ever known in this part of Michigan. We had eleven very poor days for honey last June; nothing since. Have now only enough to keep them in fair condition." H. ROOP.

Burlington, Kansas, Oct. 8, 1877.—"I examined my bees yesterday, and found them in splendid condition for winter, all strong in bees, with considerable brood. I put in side packing 2½ in. thick of chaff for winter. My hives have double ends, the spaces filled with sawdust, cushions at sides and on top. They ought to winter well on summer stands here." J. W. HENDERSON.

Chicago, Ill., September 10, 1877.—"MR. EDITOR: The Italian nuclei hive I got of you is in first-class condition for winter. When I got it home, I found it had about 300 bees, 5 drones and a beautiful queen. She is as yellow as gold and the most beautiful one I ever saw. Her progeny are like herself, beautiful. I let them remain in the small frames they came in, for 3 days and then put the 4 frames into one Langstroth frame, gave them a frame of brood and two frames of surplus honey from another hive. It has now 2 Langstroth frames of brood and 2 of honey, and as many bees as would make 10 nucleus colonies. I shall want an imported queen next spring, and several hives." F. McDONNELL.

Jefferson, Wis., Nov. 2, 1877.—"The honey harvest in this locality has been about half a crop; the spring being too cold and wet. I had to feed nearly all of my bees until the middle of June, when white clover commenced blooming. They gathered considerable surplus honey from white clover and basswood, but stored none from fall flowers. My honey crop this season was between 9,000 and 10,000 lbs.—about half of each. I sold all of my comb honey at 16 to 20c. (except about 600 lbs. I have yet on hand). The comb honey in sections such as Doolittle uses, only smaller, without glass, I sold all at 20c. per lb. I have 350 colonies in good condition for winter, but they are on their summer stands yet, and to-day we have snow here." C. GRIMM.

Binghampton, N.Y.—"FRIEND NEWMAN: The proceedings of the National Convention in regard to marketing honey and the essays on that subject should be sown broadcast among bee-keepers, especially those who have but few hives and little honey; they are the ones that do so much damage to the honey markets by selling small lots at any price offered. In that way they spoil the market for large producers." J. P. MOORE.

[It was that such persons may be *educated* up to their duty—that we were enduced to publish that "Special Edition" containing the full report of the National Convention—and now in order to get them into the hands of such persons we will make a liberal reduction in the price by the quantity. They cost singly, 20 cents each; but we will send 10 for a dollar, postpaid, to any one who wishes to distribute them, and thus aid in the *education* of small bee-keepers—thereby saving the honey markets from being sacrificed by the ignorance or inadvertance of the unwary.

When remitting for next year, let all who can, send an extra dollar and get ten of the Special edition for distribution. We send out hundreds of copies every week, *free of cost*, to such persons, and there are no doubt many who will be gratified to see this suggestion, and will gladly avail themselves of the opportunity of doing good to themselves and the cause generally.—ED.]

Wyoming, N. Y., Sept. 10, 1877.—"I saw an article in the August number of the A. B. J., by James Heddon, in regard to comb foundation. My experience has been very different from his. I used some last spring in transferring, to fill out some frames where I lacked good worker comb, and it worked to my entire satisfaction. I noticed one comb when it had been in just long enough to be filled with sealed brood that contained 6 drone cells and about 7,000 worker cells, nearly ready to hatch. Another frame was solid with brood, and had only one drone cell. Other frames of it have worked in about the same way. The foundation I use is made from pure yellow wax, and I have had it drawn out to ½ inch in thickness in 8 hours after putting it in the hive, and eggs in it in less than 24 hours, and that in the month of May when nights were cool and bees were getting honey but slowly. I agree with Mr. Heddon in respect to Italians *vs.* blacks. I have failed to see any Italians that would beat some of my black swarms, and others of them seem bound to just make a living, but I have been raising queens from my best swarms and replacing the old ones, and I think I more than get paid for my trouble in nice comb honey. Our season here has been very short; first a light run of clover, then a light run of basswood from July 14 to 23, and after that a little buckwheat. I have taken about 50 lbs. of comb honey per hive, and no increase; and am now getting my bees ready for winter, in the hope of a better season next year." A BEGINNER.

Ridgefield, Conn.—"The past season has been the poorest for honey that we have ever known. Our 32 stocks were very strong in the spring, and increased by natural swarming to 46, but we have taken only about 200 lbs. of surplus honey this season." S. W. STEVENS.

Winnebago Co., Ill., Oct. 22, 1877.—"My bees did well; I had 3 stands last spring, and increased to 6; got 30 lbs. of extracted and 450 lbs. of box honey. My bees would have done better but for the dry weather in July. I like Italians best, because they are more peaceable. I purchased a fine queen of H. Alley, in Sept. I would not be without the JOURNAL for anything."
M. ADAMS.

Camden Point, Mo., Oct. 28, 1877.—"Have increased this season from 9 to 28 colonies. The crop of honey was fair; below the average in the spring, but after Aug. 20th, good. I only took the actual surplus, leaving them large supplies for winter. I have 1,000 lbs. of nice honey; it sells here for 16⅔ to 20c. per lb. I shall infuse new blood into my apiary next spring. May the JOURNAL live long and prosper."
TOM M. MOORE.

Breakabean, N. Y., Nov. 8, 1877.—"I had 65 colonies last fall; lost 1, the bees killing 2 or 3 queens after I had given them a frame of eggs several times. They all did well till March 25, a warm day with south wind, when nearly all my bees went out, but few returning—the wind blew them to the ground, and they perished. The last of June my barn was destroyed by fire and I lost 3 swarms then. From 40 colonies I got 1,700 lbs. It is usual for many colonies to be lost by going to the woods, but I never lost one in that way. I do not unite weak stocks; I can make them all strong."
WM. B BURGETT.

Strait's Corners, N.Y., Nov. 5th, 1877.—"I could not do without the JOURNAL in the management of bees. My bees did very well. I commenced the season with 10 colonies in box hives; increased by natural swarming to 34; doubled down to 28. My young swarms I put in hives 12x12x14 in. deep inside, with stationary bars at the top. Several of my young swarms stored in the 2½-lb Isham box, 22 to 70 lbs. each. One first swarm stored 83 lbs. Some of my old swarms stored from 10 to 25 lbs. each, after casting 3 swarms. I intend to use the Langstroth hive next season. The honey crop was rather light in this section."
ISAAC E. PELHAM.

Vermont, Ill., Oct. 7, 1877.—"I had 75 colonies of hybrids and Italians on May 1; 15 of these I made into 2 nucleis each, in order to raise queens. Of the 60 left, 15 were weak, leaving but 50 to run for honey. I imported some queens from Italy—3 of them were impure; proving conclusively that there are black bees in Italy. A Cyprian colony, with its increase, gave 346 lbs of honey. Average for all hives, 80⅓ lbs., which I sold at an average of 18c. Total amount of honey sold, 4,227 lbs.; cash received for honey, $760.80; for queens, $417.60; for swarms, $208.50. Total, $1,386.90. Cash paid out, $886.90—leaving me a profit of $500 over all expenses." H. HAINES.

Garden Plain, Ill., Sept. 29, 1877.—"The season for surplus having closed, bees generally are in good shape for winter. I will give results for this season. I commenced with 75 colonies; 10 of them light in bees, the rest strong, but with scanty stores. I had to feed to keep up brood-rearing; they did not get honey enough to supply their wants, before the second week in June. I increased to 105, and took 4,000 lbs. of honey—1500 lbs. being comb, mostly in section boxes. I am selling to the consumer: extracted, 12½c. per lb.; comb, 16c. to 18c. I think if my health had been good, through June and the first of July, I could have had 1,000 lbs. more, as some of them crowded the queen too much, and there were a few poor queens that needed changing; but where the queens were all right, they are still raising plenty of brood to have young bees to go into winter with."
R. R. MURPHY.

Springfield, O., Oct. 16, 1877.—"FRIEND NEWMAN: I just reached home last evening, from a trip to the northern part of the State. I went with my own conveyance, and so saw a great many hives, and lots of them empty; and the universal cry was 'poor luck.' I saw hives 7 or 8 in. square inside and over 3 feet high, and the owners complained of 'poor luck!' strange isn't it? I saw on Oct. 12th, box hives of from 3,000 to 3,500 cubic inches over-run with bees and so full of honey that I could just lift them, but could not step with them (and I'm stout too, weighing to-day, with light clothes, 202 lbs.), and the owner had 'poor luck,' no box honey; but if better counsel don't prevail, brimstone will bring the honey. My bees have done pretty well this season, but not as well as last. I have adopted Alley's plan for introducing queens with tobacco smoke, and have not had a failure yet. Some Italian queens I got of Alley have produced as fine bees as I ever saw. Success to the 'old reliable' JOURNAL. A. B. MASON.

Wayne, Mich., Nov. 8, 1877.—"At the National Convention, in a paper there read, some one gives 'Mrs. Tupper's plan' for making artificial or forced swarms. It is given in the third edition of Langstroth, p. 180 and 181 (also, if my memory serves me, in both former editions). My impression is that the third edition was published prior to the time Mrs. Tupper engaged in bee-keeping at all, certainly the first editions were. Perhaps Mr. L. stole it from Mrs. Tupper, as Mr. King informed said convention that Langstroth pirated the invention of the movable comb or frame hive. Perhaps he will be so kind as to inform us why some of these noted and prior inventors did not use their own inventions until Mr. L. gave to the world a detailed description of *their hives?* That is a question the answer to which would be extremely edifying to beginners. I think these gentlemen came as near the discovery of a practical movable frame as Samson did, and no nearer. There is a model of one of them at Washington (by Munn, I think), with as near the same plan (so far as the movable frame is concerned) as the ribs were to frames in Samson's lion—to wit, with a hinge at one end! Seriously, why did not some of this array of original inventors use their own inventions instead of attempting to pull down the temple built by others?" E. ROOD.

Barren Co., Ky., Sept. 27, 1877.—"We have had a good honey season this year. I began in the spring with 6 colonies, some of them in poor condition. I have received 400 lbs. of extracted honey, and doubled my number of colonies, which are rich and full at present. We have a rich honey-dew; bees are doing well. Success to the JOURNAL." JOS. T. GRAY.

Moultrie Co., Ill., Oct. 19, 1877.—"But few of those who keep bees here are bee-masters. I began 3 years ago with one colony of Italians; I now have 19, and a good stock of surplus honey. I get from 20 to 25c. per lb for it. I am delighted with the Italians. I use the Langstroth hive with two honey boxes covering the entire top. White clover and smartweed are our main honey plants; linden yields but little. A. M. RHODES.

Mohawk, N. Y., Nov, 17, 1877.—"FRIEND NEWMAN: The Quinby hive at the American Institute Fair was not made or exhibited by me, as stated; it was made by Geo. Ellison. The hive and boxes were much inferior to those known as the new Quinby, and now used by us, and were placed on exhibition by A. J. King for no honorable purpose." L. C. ROOT.

Putnam Co., Ill., Nov. 16, 1877.—"My 223 stands have gathered for this season 1,200 4-lb boxes of honey, and gathered up to Oct. 4th in abundance. I had a sale of bees on Oct. 13th, and sold 35 stands—the lowest price was $7, and the highest $11.25. I have been selling honey at 12½c. We are all well pleased with the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL. I shall try and get all the subscribers I can for it." OTTO HALBLEIB.

Canandaigua, N. Y., Sept. 18, 1877.—"I bought 15 stocks last year in box hives, but not in time for surplus honey. I Italianized them; buying queens of J. H. Nellis, at $1.50 each. I bought bees early last spring, in box hives, and increased my number to 58 stocks; transferred to the improved Quinby hive. Forty-five stocks were in medium condition; the remaining 13 stocks made no surplus honey. This season I have 3,200 lbs. of comb honey, 100 lbs. of extracted, 25 lbs. of wax, and 12 stocks increase. I prefer the Italian bees to blacks. I have taken 150 lbs. of comb honey from some of my Italians, while the best blacks made only 80 lbs. I took 90 lbs. of comb honey from one Italian stock; then it swarmed; the swarm filled its hive, and I took 60 lbs. of comb honey from the two stocks, making from one stock and increase 150 lbs. of comb honey.

"It was through taking the JOURNAL that I received your advice to use small sections for surplus honey, instead of boxes; by so doing I received 3c. more per lb on 2,100 lbs, making $63 in my favor—enough to pay for the JOURNAL for my lifetime, perhaps, as I intend taking it that long, if I can get it. I shipped 2,700 lbs. of comb honey to Messrs. Thurber & Co., of New York. It is a good house; I would advise those having honey to sell, to ship to them. My honey crop brought me $625, besides an increase of 12 stocks and 25 lbs. of wax. I fed 100 lbs. of sugar last spring. All but 4 of my stocks have enough honey to last them to the beginning of next season. I keep them from swarming by cutting out the queen cells. I bought some queens of T. N. Hollett, this season—one was a drone-laying and one a black queen—both sold as pure Italians and tested. I would like to hear from those who bought queens from him, this season, whether they were purely mated, etc. Dr. Andrews, of this place, has had some experience with him, but not of a satisfactory nature. The *Fanciers' Journal* has published him as a dishonorable dealer with fowls; is he not the same with bees?" G. C. SODEN.

Sandusky, N. Y., Oct. 6, 1877.—"DEAR EDITOR: Thinking that you would like to hear from this section, called 'Cold Cattaraugus,' I send you a few lines. The season for bees has been better than an average one. My Italian stocks commenced swarming the last of May, which is nearly a month earlier than usual, June 22d being about the average date; and the season closes with basswood, so what we do in the bee line must be done quickly. The bee business has not yet fully revived from the low state in which it was left by that bee disease which used up nine-tenths of all the bees in this and adjoining counties. I commenced last spring with 60 stocks—50 Italians and 10 blacks—in fair condition; I increased to 86 and took 2,200 lbs. of box and 300 lbs. of extracted honey. I used a section-box weighing when glassed for market 2½ lbs. My best Italian stock gave one swarm on May 28th, and from the two I had 175 lbs. of box honey. The best Italian stock that I kept from increasing gave me 150 lbs. of box honey. From the two best black stocks, not increased, 190 lbs. of box honey. My Italians have done best in all respects, and are in better condition for wintering." A. A. BALDWIN.

Grimes Co., Tex., Sept. 9, 1877.—"Our honey in July was good, though dark; our August honey is hot, or rather smarts the throat after eating it awhile; it is gathered from the wilk-weed, or, as the poet calls it, 'the summer snow.' It covers the prairies, and when in full bloom, at a distance, resembles snow. It grows from 2 to 6 ft. high, according to the quality of land; half its height is one straight stalk; it then spreads its branches in every direction; it flourishes best in dry weather. If it could be utilized, it would be a valuable honey plant with us. Since the fall rains have set in, other blooms are getting plentiful, and they have stopped gathering honey from it. They are now working on the morning glory. I have on hand 2,000 lbs. of the hot honey; what to do with it I do not know. If there was a chemist convenient I would have him find out whether it could be utilized or not. I send you some to experiment with." IRA M. CAMP.

[The honey *can* was received, but not a drop of honey did it contain. We had to pay 71 cents extra postage on it, and were much disappointed on finding the can empty. Its being encased in wood made it heavy enough not to cause us to suspect its being empty. We do not know what is the best disposition to make of your *hot* honey. Will some one having experience with such, give some light on the subject?—ED.]

"Granville, O., Nov. 8, 1877.—MR. NEWMAN: There is considerable discussion here about the legality of using the 'American' bee-hive. I am not personally interested, as I never had an American hive in my yard; but a man by the name of Cruixshank has been levying a tax on every one who has an American hive in this county. I claimed to him that Mr. King had in 1873 made all his patents public property, consequently if I had any desire to make or use an American hive I should do so. But Cruixshank claims that he bought this and other territory before Mr. King made his patent public; and he still has a valid claim on all who make or use the hive in the territory he purchased of Mr. King previous to his giving his patents to the public; that Mr. King had no legal right to this county, and could give no one a right to make his hive here, as he did not own the territory. Will you please give us all the benefit of your opinion in the next JOURNAL? and no doubt it will serve persons in other localities as well as this, who are about to make their hives for next season. Cruixshank has published a card in our county paper, warning all those who use the American that he will prosecute them for a farm right."

W. H. SEDGWICK.

We would answer that the "American" *is still a patent hive.* In November, 1873, Mr. H. A. King announced that his hives were "public property in all unsold territory," which he then stated comprised "about ninety-nine one hundredths of the whole United States," and adds: "By this announcement we remove every restraint from the use, manufacture and sale of our hives in all *unsold* territory." He could not donate the patent to the public in counties he did not own.

By a letter just received from Rev. H. A. King, we learn that Mr. Cruixshank purchased a few counties in Ohio *before* the event of his donation to the public—his claim therefore is technically *legal.*

The Langstroth patent has expired—it is public property everywhere.

Davis, Mich., Nov. 13, 1877.—"My third years' report is as follows: After losing 40 colonies during winter and spring, I had but 14 left, which I have only doubled, but have put in, during the spring and summer, enough to make my number now to 64 colonies—all in good condition, with plenty of honey to winter on. I have taken 3,006 lbs. of extracted and considerable comb honey (I kept no account of the comb honey). I find ready sale for my honey at home at 15 to 18c. per lb., and 10c. for comb honey taken from old hives when transferring. I make my price on honey at the commencement of the season, at about what I think will be a fair rate and living profit, and as yet have found no difficulty in making sales. I have not quite 600 lbs. on hand. It will soon be all gone, and at a fair rate. I have been very busy over the hives this season, trying to make up my losses, and think I have done it. If not I *think* I have, and that is just as well. We should not brood over misfortunes but keep our minds and hands busily engaged in building up, and we may soon recover our losses. I have been reading the transactions of our National Association, and am very much interested in them. I am glad there are so many scientific men engaged in apiculture. When I read the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL it seems to me that we fairly meet with each other in relating our experiences."

W. P. EVRITT.

Allamakee, Iowa, Nov. 12, 1877.—"Since Messrs. Thurber offered a prize for "the best honey in the most marketable shape," I have watched with greatest interest for the report of the committee appointed to decide as to the merits of the different exhibits of honey placed on exhibition, with a view of competing for the Thurber medal. In the current number, the JOURNAL has favored us with the report and decision of the committee, also with a short description of several of the different lots of honey offered for the inspection of said committee, with cuts of shipping crates, hives, extractors, etc. In the next JOURNAL please give a minute description as to size and style of construction of the boxes or small packages so successfully used by Messrs. Doolittle, Hetherington, et al. Are all or any of them covered by letters patent? I run my apiary exclusively for box honey; have at present 50 stands of bees, and if I have ordinary success in wintering I shall undoubtedly need considerable storage capacity for surplus honey next season. I like to keep up with the times as regards boxes and other fixtures. Accept my best wishes for the financial success of the JOURNAL; it is the bee-keeper's friend." C. A. LUCE.

[The Doolittle box (or cap) is 6 in. high by 5 in. wide inside, and 1¾ in. between the glass; which is put on after the boxes are taken from the hive. The side pieces of the box are 2 in. wide holding in the glass, with the assistance of 3 tin triangles driven into the top and bottom and bent over the glass. A saw groove in the top is intended to fasten starters. Capt. Hetherington's cap of boxes is patented; his crate is not—neither is the Doolittle box.

The Hetherington crate is 8x16 in. by 6 in. deep, inside, and contains 12 of the above boxes; glass at each side of the crate, showing the honey; held in by a 1-in. strip (¼ in. thick) at top and bottom. A wabble-saw cut on each end serves for handling.—ED.]

Wenham, Mass.—"I see on page 335, Oct. number, C. A. Graves thinks I am careless in shipping queens. I am as liable to make mistakes as any one—and by an oversight sent his to N. Y. instead of O. I had some 200 orders when his was received on June 4 (not May 4 as he stated), but to oblige him, filled his order 10 days before it would come in regular order—sending his on June 27. I don't ask Mr. G. to lose the $1; he can have it 'on demand.' As to friend Glenn, I think he had reason to complain. There was a slight misunderstanding about his order, but he had another queen sent Aug. 20, before his article appeared in the JOURNAL. I want to say that I am ready to settle all differences by private correspondence without troubling the A. B. J." H. ALLEY.

Bellwood, Pa.—"What is the best mode of treatment for sour honey? Will it make vinegar? F. M. GLASGOW.

[The only remedy we know of is to keep it till needed, and then feed to the bees; they will remove it from the cells and make it sweet in a little while. It is worth too much to make into vinegar, still it can be done—one part of honey to five of water will be the proportions.—ED.]

Wethersfield, Ct., Oct. 27, 1877.—"In the season of 1875 I purchased queens of H. Alley; some were good, but not all. One was detained in the post-office for 13 days, the clerks failing to recognize my address on the package; but she was received alive. In Sept. I received from him 3 queens; one was dead when received, there was no delay this time, and one was a poor hybrid. I wrote him the facts at the time, expecting that he would make the two queens good. I received this short and perhaps singular reply: 'Queens are played out for the season.' Not feeling satisfied with Mr. A., I sent orders for queens to other parties, the next spring. This displeased Mr. A., and now he does not recognize my claim, but sends me *no little* abuse whenever I remind him of it." H. L. LANKTON.

Sumter Co., Ala., Oct. 11, 1877.—"Will it do to keep honey in tin? Do drones feed themselves? Will honey sour when not extracted till capped? Can you refer me to a honey market? What kind of barrels are best to ship honey in?"

A SUBSCRIBER.

[Tin cans are good honey vessels. Drones feed themselves. Such honey will sometimes sour; when it does, feed back to the bees. New York is your nearest good market. Thurber & Co. will buy all you have for sale. Any good, hard wood barrels, if clean, will do.—ED.]

Borodino, N.Y.—I notice in the Report of the National Convention that Mr. Betsinger stated that black bees stored the honey that was awarded the Gold Medal; thereby leaving the Convention and your readers to conclude that I keep black bees. This is not so; I have not had a colony of black bees in five years. I should be exceedingly sorry to have the idea prevail that black bees produced better honey than the Italians, and that their honey was so much superior as to have the Gold Medal awarded to it, when apiarists of the 19th century have taken so much trouble to import pure Italians.

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

Starkville, N. Y., Nov. 22, 1877.—"I have sold my honey to Messrs. Thurber & Co., of New York. Instead of taking the 30 days for payment as I offered, they sent me a check for the entire amount. It is a pleasure to do business with those who do as they agree to, but they have done even better. Their extensive business seems to bear testimony to the fact that business relations so satisfactorily established are more apt to prove permanent and profitable to all concerned. It is a pleasure for me to recommend them to enquiring bee-men."

P. H. ELWOOD.

Notes and Queries,

CONDUCTED BY

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.

Henry Station, Tenn., Sept. 29, 1877.—"Enclosed find a flower of the smartweed that produces honey so plentifully. And also another plant—please name them."

J. P. PARKER.

The former is *polygonum incaratum*. It is nearly related to smartweed. The latter is *eupatorum* or bone-set. The specimen is too poor to tell the species.

Galesburg, Ill., Sept. 21, 1877.—"Enclosed send sample of a wild plant, on which I saw a lot of bees at work yesterday. Were they gathering honey or pollen? It has a square hard stem; the top is bushy and it blooms profusely." H. B.

It is *scrophularia nodosa*. They were no doubt getting both honey and pollen from it. It is too large and coarse a plant, with flowers too few and small to be very valuable to cultivate for bees.

Fanning Co., Tex., Sept. 21, 1877.—"I send a sprig of our best fall honey-producing plant. What is it? I have taken 85 lbs. of honey from one colony, and it is full again. I shall have 30 lbs. more." S. S. LYDAY.

Its name is *Eupatorium*—the species uncertain—it is a poor specimen.

Jennings Co., Ind., Sept. 26, 1877.—"We have had the best honey season for the past month that I ever saw. I enclose a specimen of our best honey plant. Bees are storing largely from it." WM. MARTIN.

It is an aster—the specimen has no lerves. Specimens should contain not only all kinds of leaves, but the leaves should be spread so as to show when dried. Some of these plants were such poor specimens that my coleague, Prof. W. J. Beal, one of the very best botanists in the country, could not indefy them.

Union Co., Ill., Oct. 13, 1877.—"I enclose a specimen of our best fall honey-producing plant. It begins to bloom just before the golden-rod ceases, and continues till hard frost. The honey is white and I think just as good as clover honey. What is it?"

E. B. BARKER.

It is one of the species of 50 or 60 asters that grow east of the Mississippi River. They are all good honey-producers.

Libertyville, Mo., Nov. 8, 1877.—"DEAR SIR: Enclosed find seed and hull from a stalk about 2½ to 3½ ft. high, white flower, blooms in Sept. What is it? Bees did tolerably well here. I had over 100 lbs. of comb honey from one colony of Italians, having a daughter of one of Dadant's imported queens." J. B. DINES.

It is a species of aster—a good plant for honey.

New Orleans, La., Sept. 18, 1877.—"I enclose 13 samples of our fall flowers. Nos. 1 and 4 bloom from the middle of May till end of July. They grow on swamp land and among the heaviest swamp timber. Golden-rod and aster grow both in swamps and on open land. The latter is our stand-by for winter supply. The rest grow only in swamps, and bloom from Sept. 15 to Nov. 15. A swamp running parallel with the Mississippi River from 2 to 40 miles wide contains particularly Nos. 1, 4, 7, 10 and 13. Wet weather prevents bees from getting large amounts of honey from them. This season has been the poorest ever known—not ¼ as much surplus as common—but gave 60 per cent. increase." W. B. RUSH.

1. *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (button-buch); yellow flower, size of white clover; gives amber honey.
2. *Cuphorlia oltissimum.*
3. *Solidago* (golden-rod), 50 species east of Mississippi River.
4. *Vitis bipinnota.*
5. *Pluchea foetida*—marsh flea-bone.
6. A poor specimen—no leaves.
7. *Mikania scandens.*
8. *Milkania*—climbing bone-set.
9. *Iresine ceosiordes.*
10. *Baccharis halimfolia*—grounded tree.
11. Morning glory.
12. *Lythrum lineare*—loose-strife.
13. *Polygonum.* There are 22 species east of the Mississippi River.

"DEAR EDITOR:—Enclosed I send you a specimen of a new honey plant, which grows wild in great abundance in this region. My attention was called to it last season, by seeing the bees working on it from morning till evening. It commences to bloom about the middle of July and continues to bloom until frost. There is as much again of the plant growing this season, as there was last year. After the plant commenced to bloom my bees get much of their honey from it.

"Enclosed I send a communication from Jas. A. Simpson to *Gleanings in Bee-Culture*, which gives a full and accurate description of the plant I refer to. I sent a specimen to our State botanist a few weeks since, in order to learn the name of the plant, but as yet have not heard from him. Can you give me its name? I do not know how it will do under cultivation, but intend to sow one-half acre in the spring.

"Bees did not do well in this vicinity during the spring, owing to wet weather while the fruit trees were in bloom. We had to feed in order to keep them from starving, and those stands which survived became very weak, but revived when the linn came into bloom and made about 50 pounds of surplus honey, on the average, to each stand. There were in this vicinity very few new swarms, and out of 14 stands, I only got four new swarms. There are a great many bees kept in this county, and they seem to pay well. Yours truly, WM. FAIRALL.

It is *scrofalaria nodosa*, a large and coarse grower, and not very valuable for honey—the bloom being too scarce to pay for cultivation for bees.

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We send the JOURNAL until an order for discontinuance is received at this office, and arrearages are all paid.

We will give Hill's work on "Chicken Cholera" (price 50 cents), to any one desiring it, as a premium for two subscribers.

Additions can be made to clubs at any time, at the same rate. Specimen copies, Posters, and Illustrated Price List sent free upon application.

☞ For the convenience of bee-keepers, we have made arrangements to supply, at the lowest market prices, Imported or tested Italian Queens, full colonies, Langstroth or other hives, Extractors of all the makes, and anything required about the apiary.

☞ The only *safe* way to send money by mail is to get the letter registered, or procure a money order or draft. We cannot be responsible for money lost, unless these precautions are taken. Then it is at our risk, and if lost we will make it good to the sender, but not otherwise.

We will send a tested Italian queen to any one sending us four subscribers to THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL with $8.00. This premium, giving a good queen for four subscribers, will pay any one for taking some trouble to extend the circulation of the JOURNAL. Premium queens will in every case be tested.

HOW TO WINTER.—Those who wish to post up on the subject of wintering, will do well to read Prof. Cook's essay as read before the National Convention of last year. It was published in the December number of 1876, and has since been re-published in pamphlet form, with the other essays. Price 15 cents.

Honey Markets.

NEW YORK.—We quote as follows:

HONEY.—The demand for strictly white honey in neat single comb caps, 12 caps in a crate, continues good, very little being in the market, and 20 to 22c. being freely paid for it. White honey in other styles ranges from 17 to 20c. Dark or Buckwheat honey, in single comb caps, 12 caps in crate, 13 to 14c.; same honey in larger caps, 10 to 12c. The supply of dark comb honey—golden-rod, buckwheat, and darker grades—is full, and prices rule low. Basswood extracted is in particularly good demand here, bringing from 13 to 14c. sharp cash, candied having the preference.

BEESWAX.—Little is doing; shippers taking small lots at 27@28c. for Southern or Western.

Exports for week ending Nov. 21 ... none
" from Jan. 1. ..... 106,753 lbs.
" same time last year..... 66,787 "

H. K. & F. B. THURBER & Co.

CHICAGO.—Choice new comb honey, 15@19c. Extracted, choice white 9@10c. Beeswax, 25@30.

CINCINNATI.—Quotations by C. F. Muth. Comb honey, in small boxes, 18@19c. Extracted, 1 lb. jars, in shipping order, per doz., $2.50; per gross, $28.00. 2 lb. jars, per doz., $4.50; per gross, $50.00.

SAN FRANCISCO.—Quotations by Stearns & Smith. White, in boxes and frames, 18@22c. Strained honey in good demand at 12@16c.; beeswax, 30@32½c.; fine white honey much wanted.

LOUISVILLE.—Quotations by B. B. Barnum.—I will pay for choice, light, extracted honey 8@10c.; for white comb 12½@15c., in small boxes.

OLD UNCLE DAN.—Is the title of an excellent new Song, by Horace Dumars. Thousands of Songs have been published in America, within the last few years, but few ever contain merit enough to become very popular. The above song, is a gem, in fact, one of the sweetest negro melodies ever put before the music loving public. Sung nightly with immense success, by Milt. G. Barlow, of minstrel fame. Price, 40 cents per copy. The title page is illustrated, and contains a fine view of a Southern plantation scene—can be obtained from any large music dealer, or from the publisher, F. W. Helmick, No. 50 West Fourth St., Cincinnati, O.

COUNTERFEIT MONEY.—Avoid all risks, and subscribe for the only reliable and official Counterfeit Detector issued, and then loss from receiving counterfeit money need never be incurred. All handling bank notes have only to keep at hand for consultation PETERSON'S COUNTERFEIT DETECTOR, a semi-monthly publication containing descriptions of all counterfeit notes as soon as they appear, also a complete list of broken, closed, failed, and fradulent banks. Every number of the DETECTOR contains likewise lists of all the National and State banks in the country, financial news and items, price current, reviews of the money and stock markets, &c., and is, in short, a very valuable publication, which no business man should be without. Subscription for the Monthly issue is $1.50 a year. Subscriptions may commence with any month. Address T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia, Pa., for specimen copy.

"ON NOVICE."—The readers of THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL will doubtless recall an article from my pen with the above heading, written some four years ago. We had hoped that it would never again become necessary for us to write another personal article; but our hopes were futile. We have recently ascertained that the bee-keepers of the country have obtained the impression from *Gleanings in Bee-Culture* that we have done Novice a gross injustice in taking money from him to partly indemnify us for damages sustained in using his goods. Now at this late day in the month we cannot write a lengthy article in time for the Dec. number; but will do so next month. In the meantime we hope our friends will suspend judgment, as we have never intentionally injured anyone, and will show most conclusively, that we and *not* Novice, are the injured party, and have just cause of complaint, if any is to be made. HERBERT A. BURCH.

South Haven, Mich., Nov. 24, 1877.

GOOD USE FOR A DIME.—We advise all our readers to forward their address and 10 cents to Orange Judd Co., 245 Broadway, New York, who make a special offer to send for this sum the number for October 1st, of the *American Agriculturist*. This splendid number, besides over 50 engravings, contains a great amount of useful, practical, reliable, seasonable information, not only for the farm and Garden, but for Household, Children included. Most will get from it hints and suggestions worth ten or twenty times its cost..... Better still, to send $1.60 and receive the paper, postpaid, from now to the end of 1878—that is, all of volume 37, with the rest of 1877 *free*.

A Great Book House.—One of the cheapest book stores in the United States is that of T. B. PETERSON & BROTHERS, 306 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa. They publish the writings of Mrs. E. D. E. N. Southworth, Mrs. Ann S. Stephens, Miss Dupuy, Mrs. Warfield, Mrs. Dorsey, Caroline Lee Hentz, Charles Dickens, Charles Lever, Wilkie Collins, Alex. Dumas, and many other popular writers, and they would call the attention of all Book Buyers to the fact, that they are now publishing a number of cloth and paper-covered Books in attractive style, including a series of 25 cent, 50 and 75 cent Novels in new style covers. They are new and cheap editions of the works of the most popular English and American authors, and are presented in an attractive style, printed from legible type, on good paper, especially adapted for General Reading, Hotel Stands, and Railroad Sales, and are furnished at such a low price that they will meet with a ready sale wherever properly introduced. In fact, all of the best books by best authors can be obtained of Messrs. T. B. Peterson & Brothers, and retail and wholesale orders will be filled at lowest rates, as all their books are sold at prices to suit the times. Send for their Catalogue.

BACK NUMBERS WANTED.—We want the following back numbers. Any one having all or any one of them to dispose of, will please let us know, *at once*, what numbers they are, and the price they want for them, and the condition they are in.

All of vols. 2, 3 and 7. Nos. 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of vol. 4. Nos. 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 of vol. 5. Nos. 1, 3, 5 and 10 of vol. 6. No. 7 of vol. 8. No. 1 of vol. 10. No. 1 of vol. 11.